

LANCHESTER MOUNTAINEERING CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



Introduction

The Lanchester Mountaineering Club (LMC) recognises that all children have the right to be protected from harm, and to live in a safe environment. The LMC wishes to allow children to enjoy and participate in club meets in as safe an environment as is practical. The Club, its officers and members have a duty of care to safeguard the welfare of children who participate in its activities. This document sets out the Club's Child Protection Policy.

Policy statement

As a member Club of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), the LMC accepts and is bound by the BMC's Child Protection Policy (CPP) and procedures [1].

All Club members should be aware of the Good Practice guidelines contained within the document, and should follow them where possible.

Duty of care

As individuals we all owe a duty of care to others, not to cause them harm or injury by negligence or omission. A Club member has the same duty to act with reasonable care towards others. As a Club member, your actions should be those of a "reasonable person" with your particular skill and qualifications.

The duty of care is increased for those in an elected position and for those with responsibility for U18 members.

A Club member who is in loco parentis is required to act "as a reasonably prudent parent would". It is reasonable to expect that there is a progressive transfer of responsibility from parent to child as the child grows older.

Parent Consent Form

This form is mandatory if a child U18 is attending a meet without a parent or legal guardian. Failure to have the form logged with the 'meet organiser' at least 2 days prior to the meet will result in NO ENTRY to the accommodation regardless of the time or location. The form can be obtained from the LMC website

<https://sites.google.com/site/lanchestermountaineeringclub/home/useful-documents>

or by contacting the LMC youth liaison officer youth@lanchestermc.co.uk or the meets officer meets@lanchestermc.co.uk

Risk and responsibility

Children who attend meets, and their parents and guardians, must be aware and accept that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering and other activities carry a risk of personal injury or death. Parents and participants in these & other club activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Principles of good practice

The LMC accepts and complies with the good practice guidelines of the BMC. The following guidelines are particularly relevant to members of the Club:

- Club members should follow BMC procedures in the event of an incident

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- A person who is not a legal guardian or direct relation, should avoid situations where they spend time alone or unobserved with a child or children unless they are the NAMED PERSON responsible for the child during the meet, detailed on the completed parent consent form
- Club members should be considerate of children or young people when staying in shared accommodation (e.g. club huts, camping barns or campsites). This applies to the use of bad language, consumption of alcohol, wearing of appropriate attire, etc.
- Club members should ensure that any planned route or activity involving a child takes into account the age, ability and inclination of the child or children

Incident reporting

In the event of any incident, the general course of action should be for a club member to get in touch with the LMC's Youth Liaison Officer youth@lanchestermc.co.uk and President president@lanchestermc.co.uk

Club members must follow BMC guidelines in responding to a disclosure, suspicion or allegation. This includes:

- Reacting calmly, not rushing into inappropriate action
- Making a full record of what has been said, heard or seen, as soon as possible
- Not making promises that you are unable to keep. In the event of a child making a disclosure it must be made clear that the information will need to be passed on to relevant others, on a 'need to know' basis.
- Maintaining the strictest confidentiality and impartiality
- Not ignoring the information

It is vital that any information is recorded as fully as possible. The BMC Incident Reporting form [2] should be used in the first instance, to record the nature of the incident, a description of any visible injuries (if applicable), the child's account, times, dates and any other relevant information.

If you are accused of an abusive action

In the event of an accusation, you should follow the guidelines set out by the BMC. This includes:

- Making notes of all your actions/ contacts with the child in question, as soon as possible
- Seeking professional and legal advice
- Accepting that other club members may not be able to discuss the issue with you if an investigation is underway
- Getting in contact with the BMC Officer responsible for Youth, currently:
Nick Colton, nick@thebmc.co.uk or 0161 4383305.

You should be able to receive support from the BMC under their Civil Liability insurance.

[1] British Mountaineering Council Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Policy and Guidelines.

This document is available at <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Download.aspx?id=11>

[2] BMC Child Protection Incident Form. This form is available as Appendix 2 of the document link above.