



SANDHAM GARDENS PLAYZONE

Safeguarding Policy

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The PlayZone is committed to providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all users, particularly children, young people and adults at risk.
- 1.2. We recognise our duty of care and our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all who use the facility.
- 1.3. This policy sets out the standards, procedures and expectations that ensure the PlayZone operates safely and in line with the Football Foundation, The FA's Safeguarding Framework, and statutory guidance including Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023).

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to:
 - All staff, volunteers, councillors, contractors and partners involved in the management or oversight of the PlayZone
 - All organised groups, clubs, schools and hirers
 - All users of the facility, including children, parents, carers and spectators
- 2.2. It covers safeguarding, welfare, behaviour, access, supervision, and reporting concerns.

3. SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

- 3.1. We commit to:
 - Prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children and adults
 - Creating an environment where concerns can be raised without fear
 - Responding promptly and appropriately to safeguarding issues
 - Working in partnership with statutory agencies, schools, clubs and the Football Foundation
 - Ensuring policies are reviewed annually or following any incident

4. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FACILITY USERS

- 4.1. All users must:
 - Treat others with respect
 - Use the facility safely and appropriately
 - Follow booking rules and access arrangements
 - Not climb fences, gates or structures
 - Not bring scooters, bikes or unsafe equipment onto the pitch
 - Not engage in bullying, harassment, intimidation or anti-social behaviour
 - Leave the facility clean and free of litter
 - Breaches may result in removal, suspension of access, or referral to police or safeguarding agencies.

5. SUPERVISION AND USE BY CHILDREN

- 5.1. Children under 11 should be supervised by a responsible adult unless part of an organised session.
- 5.2. Unsupervised use by older children is permitted, subject to the facility rules, behaviour expectations and community reporting arrangements.
- 5.3. Any concerns about a child's welfare should be reported without delay to the appropriate statutory agency. If a child is at immediate risk of harm, contact the police on 999.
- 5.4. Photography or recording of children during organised activities must comply with safeguarding and consent procedures.

6. SAFER RECRUITMENT

- 6.1. Any staff, volunteers or contractors engaged in activities involving children, young people or adults at risk may be subject to safer recruitment procedures.
- 6.2. Where a role is legally eligible for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, the appropriate level of check will be obtained in accordance with DBS eligibility requirements.
- 6.3. Individuals working in such roles may be required to:
 - Complete safeguarding training appropriate to their role
 - Comply with this policy and associated safeguarding procedures
- 6.4. A criminal record will not automatically exclude an individual. Risk assessments will be carried out where appropriate.

7. MANAGING RISK AT THE PLAYZONE

- 7.1. A facility-specific risk assessment will be maintained and reviewed regularly. Key risks include:
 - Climbing or breaching fences
 - Unauthorised access
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Fire hazards or vandalism
 - Slips, trips and falls
 - Weather-related risks
 - Hazardous items left on the pitch
 - Mitigation includes signage, CCTV (where used), regular inspections, and clear reporting routes.

8. REPORTING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

- 8.1. Anyone may report a safeguarding concern. Concerns may relate to:

- A child or adult
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Bullying or harassment
- Criminal or anti-social behaviour
- Welfare concerns
- Unsafe conduct or environments

8.2. Reports should be made to the relevant agency. If a person is at immediate risk, call 999.

8.3. Allegations concerning councillors, staff, volunteers or contractors will be recorded and referred to the appropriate safeguarding, regulatory, or law enforcement agency where required. The Council will cooperate with any resulting enquiries or investigations within its remit.

8.4. Contact Details

Town Clerk

Email: clerks@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01983 300329

External Contact Details

Isle of Wight Children's Services: 01983 823435

Police: 999 emergency / 101 non-emergency

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 / help@nspcc.org.uk

Isle of Wight Adult Social Care: 01983 823 900/ safeguardingconcerns@iow.gov.uk

9. DATA PROTECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

9.1. Safeguarding records will be stored securely and shared only with those who need to know, in line with data protection legislation.

9.2. Where CCTV is in operation, signage will be displayed and footage managed in accordance with UK GDPR and relevant council CCTV policies.

10. REVIEW

10.1. This policy will be reviewed annually or following any safeguarding incident, change in legislation, or Football Foundation requirement.