

ELMBRIDGE ROAD RUNNERS

Safeguarding Policy

February 2020

This document sets out the Club's arrangements for safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults. This is rarely required – our runners are generally over 18 and indeed, our constitution only refers to adult runners. There are still occasions when younger runners join us for a period.

The Club will (as the need arises) appoint a Safeguarding Officer who should ideally be a member of the Committee and must in any event be DBS-checked. The Club priority is to protect itself as well as the vulnerable runner.

The Club will only accept children/vulnerable adults if they are accompanied by a parent/carer/responsible adult – a family member or similar – who can ensure that the controls are adequate and in place. Any child/vulnerable adult must be accompanied by their parent/carer/responsible adult at all times when taking part in the Club night run.

Risk Analysis

The main practical concern is ensuring that the runner isn't dropped by the group s/he's running with, much the same as with any new runner. It would be very unkind and perhaps unsafe to leave her or him to find his own way back. Ideally all our runners would need no reminder of this but we can't be 100% certain.

The other risk is that s/he is open to inappropriate behaviour in the shower/changing/toilet facilities. The risk has two potential impacts: firstly, and most obviously that inappropriate behaviour might occur; secondly, that unfounded allegations might be made, which would put the Club and its members at risk. Here, the presence of the adult/carer/responsible adult in the changing room with the child/vulnerable adult is our most effective control.

The Club is not aware of any other situations where a child/vulnerable adult will be isolated with any Club member other than in a public area.

Resolution

We will therefore adopt the following simple measures to cover these risks in collaboration with the parent/carer/responsible adult:

For the first issue, the parent/carer/responsible adult must ensure that on every run, they run at all times with child/vulnerable adult during that run.

For the second, the parent/carer/responsible adult must ensure that the child/vulnerable adult only use the facilities when he or she is present.

For 2021/2022, the Safeguarding/ Welfare Officer is Marisa Billett who can be contacted on kit@err.club