

Co-Coach Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults 2024-2025

Introduction

As a sole trader operating co-coach, I am committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for children and vulnerable adults who engage with my services. This policy outlines my approach to safeguarding, ensuring compliance with UK laws and legislations, including the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004, the Care Act 2014, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, and the Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance.

1. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to:

- Protect children and vulnerable adults who access Co-Coach services.
 - Ensure that I understand my responsibilities in safeguarding.
 - Provide clear procedures for identifying, reporting, and managing safeguarding concerns.
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2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all interactions between myself as the sole trader and the children or vulnerable adults I work with. It covers:

- Any interaction with children (under 18 years old) and vulnerable adults (individuals who may be unable to protect themselves due to mental or physical impairments).
 - Both face-to-face and online interactions through Co-Coach services.
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3. Legal Framework

This policy is based on the following UK laws and guidance:

- Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004.
 - Care Act 2014.
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children (statutory guidance).
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education (statutory guidance).
 - Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR (for handling sensitive information).
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4. My Commitment

As the sole trader of Co-Coach, I am committed to:

- Creating a safe and inclusive environment where children and vulnerable adults feel valued and protected.
 - Promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults as a priority in all my activities.
 - Complying with the safeguarding policies of organisations and establishments that I work in.
 - Ensuring I am trained to recognize and respond to safeguarding concerns.
 - Responding promptly and effectively to all safeguarding concerns or incidents.
 - Maintaining secure records of safeguarding concerns and actions taken.
 - Holding an in-date Enhanced DBS check to ensure the safety of those I work with.
 - Maintaining in-date FA Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults certification.
 - Being trained in FA Level 2 Emergency First Aid in Football.
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5. Responsibilities

5.1 As the Sole Trader

I am solely responsible for:

- Familiarizing myself with this policy and attending safeguarding training where necessary.
- Recognizing and reporting signs of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Acting in the best interests of children and vulnerable adults at all times.

5.2 Support and Guidance

When necessary, I will seek guidance from external safeguarding experts or local safeguarding authorities to ensure appropriate action is taken.

6. Recognizing Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, including:

- **Physical Abuse:** Hitting, shaking, or causing physical harm.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Threats, humiliation, or constant criticism.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Inappropriate sexual contact or exploitation.
- **Neglect:** Failure to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, or care.
- **Financial Abuse:** Exploitation of financial resources (for vulnerable adults).

I will remain alert to signs of abuse, such as:

- Unexplained injuries or frequent absences.
- Changes in behavior, such as withdrawal or aggression.
- Fear of specific individuals or reluctance to engage in activities.

7. Reporting Concerns

7.1 Immediate Action

If a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, I will contact emergency services by calling **999**.

7.2 Reporting Procedures

- I will document any safeguarding concerns with details including dates, times, and relevant observations.
- Where appropriate, I will report concerns to local safeguarding authorities (e.g., Children's Services or Adult Social Care).
- I will liaise with local authority safeguarding officers when necessary to ensure concerns are managed effectively.

7.3 Confidentiality

Safeguarding concerns will be handled with strict confidentiality, shared only with those who need to know to take appropriate action. All data will be stored securely in compliance with UK GDPR.

8. Safer Recruitment

As a sole trader, I am the only person delivering services. However, if I subcontract or collaborate with others, I will:

- Conduct Enhanced DBS checks for any individuals working with children or vulnerable adults.
- Verify references and employment history where applicable.
- Clearly define safeguarding responsibilities in any agreements.

9. Training and Awareness

I will ensure that I:

- Stay updated on safeguarding best practices through regular training.
- Understand my roles and responsibilities under this policy.
- Remain aware of how to recognize and report concerns.

10. Online Safeguarding

When delivering services online, I will:

- Use secure and monitored platforms.
- Adhere to safeguarding best practices during online sessions.
- Provide guidance to parents/carers on how to support their children's safety online.

11. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or whenever there are significant changes in legislation or Co-Coach activities.

12. Contact Details

For questions or concerns about this policy, please contact:

- **Email:** co-coach@hotmail.com
- **Website:** www.co-coachpro.co.uk
- **Phone:** We do not use a business phone.

If you believe someone is at immediate risk, contact emergency services at **999** or the relevant local safeguarding authority.

As a sole trader, I remain fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in my services. Together, we can create a safe and supportive environment for everyone.