



## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS STATEMENT

Shetland AAC is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people in its care. The Club recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect these groups from harm, abuse and exploitation.

All members and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of children and young people. This document outlines Shetland AAC's commitment to protecting children and young people.

These guidelines are based on the following principles:

- a child includes young people up to the age of 18. A young person is between the ages of 18-25.
- the welfare of children is the primary concern
- all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, racial origin, religious belief, socio-economic status have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse
- child protection is everyone's responsibility
- children have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so
- organisations shall work in partnership together with children and parents to promote the welfare, health and development of children.

Shetland AAC will:

- promote the health and welfare of children and young people by providing opportunities for them to take part in athletics safely
- respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children
- promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the wellbeing of children and protect them from abuse
- recruit, train and support its members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves
- require all members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Policy and these procedures
- respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy as well as implementing procedures
- observe guidelines issued by local Child Protection Committees for the protection of children
- regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures

### REVIEW

This Policy and these procedures will be regularly reviewed:

- in accordance with the changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children or following any changes within Shetland AAC
- following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children within Shetland AAC
- in all other circumstances, at least every 3 years