

Ballynahinch Camera Club Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk or in Need of Protection Statement

Ballynahinch Camera Club (BHCC) Committee and members commit to adhere to the NIPA Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk or in Need of Protection Policy dated June 2017.

In doing so the Committee of the BHCC will ensure that all its members are made aware of the Policy contents and the conduct which is expected from them while involved in activities associated with BHCC programme and events.

This covers activities or events held in the Edengrove Presbyterian Church, or at other locations which may be used from time to time for club activities.

The NIPA policy defines children as persons under 18 years of age. We regard those aged under 14 years as needing a higher degree of protection than those aged 14-17.

We define a person at risk to be aged 18 or over who is, or may be,

- in need of care services, or resident in a care,
- unable to take care of himself or herself, or
- unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

Children/persons at risk should be accompanied by a responsible adult/s such as a relative or youth group leader.

The welfare of the child/person/s at risk is paramount:

- All children and persons at risk have a right to protection from harm irrespective of their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and /or sexual identity.
- The primary responsibility for the care of children and persons at risk rests with the child's/vulnerable person's carer.
- We:
 - Ensure that BHCC are safe to promote enjoyable and positive experiences.
 - Take seriously all suspicions and allegations of harm and respond to them speedily and appropriately.
 - Make all our members aware of their responsibilities to ensure the safeguarding of children and persons at risk.
 - Never take the place of the child's/vulnerable person's carer.
 - Seek to ensure that our activities afford as much protection as is reasonably practicable.

We will ensure that this protection is effective by the following measures:

- We work in open spaces, avoiding work in unobserved secluded locations or situations.
- We obtain the carer's, parent's, or guardian's signed consent prior to taking photographs of children for use by the BHCC or NIPA to promote its interests in all print or other online media.
- We treat children/persons at risk with dignity and respect.
- We do not conduct activities of any sort on a one-to-one basis.
- Where first aid treatment is administered it is, wherever possible, carried out with more than one adult present except in the rare situation of serious injury where any delay in providing urgent first aid pending the arrival of medical aid would be harmful to the child/vulnerable person.
- All members are responsible for protection issues, and in turn accepts responsibility, as a member of BHCC, for ensuring that child and vulnerable person protection issues are taken seriously.
- Any incidents or suspected incidents will be thoroughly investigated by the Committee and appropriate action taken, in conjunction with NIPA where necessary.

Revised August 2024.