

## 2. GENERAL DEFINITIONS

**Whilst some of the definitions below relate to the agencies and arrangements for safeguarding children and young people in England and Wales, there will be similar arrangements in other countries.**

**Coerver Coaching Licensees are therefore required to find out about the local arrangements and authorities for safeguarding and protecting children in their respective territories and are required to comply with the arrangements of such authorities.**

### Adult

A person over 18 years old.

### Child

Anyone under 18 years old.

### Duty of Care

The duty that rests upon an individual or organisation to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of any person involved in an activity for which the individual or organisation is responsible.

### Position of Trust

A position of trust involves a person in a position of authority over another person. There is a specific need to protect young people aged 16 and 17 who, despite reaching the age of consent for sexual activity, are considered to be vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation, in defined circumstances. This includes sexual activity and relationships with adults who hold a position of trust, responsibility or authority in relation to them and, as a result, have a considerable amount of power and influence in their lives.

### The Police

The Police have a responsibility to uphold the law, prevent crime and disorder and to protect people. In relation to child abuse, they have units within each force dedicated to taking primary responsibility for investigating cases. (In England they are often called Child Abuse Investigation Teams (CAITs) or Child Abuse Investigation Units (CAIUs), but their titles can vary). They are however primarily concerned with whether or not a crime has been committed within a family context or by someone in a position of trust, either against or by a child. Information you have received about a child's welfare may be needed in a multi-agency discussion to determine the action needed to safeguard the child concerned. This happens by either bringing those with relevant roles, responsibilities and/or information together in a meeting, or through contact with individuals or organisations by telephone and written means to collect the information required to inform decision making.

### Children's Social Care

The Local Authority statutory agency with responsibility for safeguarding and protecting children and families, formerly known as Social Services (or equivalent authorities in your territory). Children's Social Care will work in partnership with the Police to investigate allegations of child abuse. They have a duty to provide services to children who are deemed to be "in need" and to investigate concerns about a child "suffering" or being "at risk of suffering" significant harm. In order to do this Children's Social Care will assess the child's situation using the Assessment Framework, which is a tool which enables them to consider a child's needs in a comprehensive way. Any information you provide will contribute to the overall picture of the child and will help to inform the assessment. Children's Social Care can also be a source of support and advice for you and for children and their families. If you have a concern about a child, it is absolutely fine to contact them to ask for advice.

### National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

The National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is a charity campaigning and working to end cruelty to children. It is the only UK children's charity with statutory powers to take action in order to safeguard children at risk of abuse.

The NSPCC also has a helpline for anyone who has concerns about a child and the number is +44(0)808 800 5000.

ChildLine is another service provided by the NSPCC and children can call ChildLine directly should they wish to talk to someone about their concerns on +44(0)800 1111.<sup>1</sup>

### The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)

The NSPCC also has a dedicated team called the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU), which helps sports organisations to develop and implement safeguarding policies, procedures and child-focused practices. The team also supports the development of a range of safeguarding learning opportunities and resources for the sport sector and has developed a workshop called "Time to Listen" to equip Welfare Officers for their role.

### Designated Officers (DOs) also known as Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs)

The role of the Designated Officer/Local Authority Designated Officer (or equivalent in your territory) is to support organisations where concerns have arisen in relation to the behaviour of a member of staff or volunteer in a position of trust or responsibility towards a child or children. Whether or not a parallel abuse investigation is considered or undertaken, DOs/LADOs will work with organisations (often to the conclusion of the case) to ensure that internal complaints, and disciplinary and investigative processes are applied effectively. The way in which DOs/LADOs become involved does however vary from case to case.

### Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH)

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (or equivalent group that operates in your territory) provide a single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns.

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<sup>1</sup> Ideally the ChildLine number or equivalent should be displayed and/or made available to all young people participating in your sessions.

The MASH brings together professionals from the Police, Health, Probation Trust, Education, Children's Social Care and Community Safety to facilitate early, better quality information sharing, analysis and decision making to safeguard vulnerable children and young people more effectively.

### Welfare Officer

The Welfare Officer is the person who is responsible for safeguarding children and young people within the Coerver Coaching Licenced Territory.

All Coerver Coaching Licensees must have an appointed Welfare Officer. It should be the Licensee or someone who is not involved in the direct delivery of coaching, or related to someone that is involved in the direct delivery of coaching.

The Welfare Officer must establish who the Designated Officer (or equivalent person that operates in your territory) is, where they are based, and how referrals can be made to them.

It is also worth noting that each MASH operates slightly differently, so once again it is recommended that you find out more about your local MASH (or equivalent group that operates in your territory) to clarify their procedures in advance of needing to contact them about a concern.

### Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

The DBS was formed through a merger of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). A DBS check (or equivalent check in your territory) will access an individual's criminal record information for registered bodies who deploy people working with children, so that they can make an informed decision about the individual's suitability to work in that position. Additionally, the DBS will complete a Barring Status Check on an individual whose role fulfils the relevant criteria of Regulated Activity.

### Barring Status Check

A check against the list of individuals who may be barred from working with children and therefore should not be engaging in Regulated Activity.

### Regulated Activity

Regulated Activity involves contact with children and is:

Of a specific nature e.g. training, teaching, supervising, advice, treatments or transport provided for the purposes of the activity

Or

In a specified place e.g. schools, children's homes and hospitals, juvenile detention facilities, adult care homes

And

Occurs once a week or more

And/or

Occurs on four or more occasions in a 30-day period

And/or

Occurs overnight between 2am and 6am.

An additional element to this definition is that “unsupervised” volunteers and employees in regulated activity may be required to have a check (additional to the criminal records check) to ascertain whether they are barred from working with children.

#### Regulated Activity Provider

The person or organisation responsible for employing or deploying workers to facilitate an activity, whether these workers are paid or unpaid.

#### Coach

An appropriately qualified individual who delivers coaching activities to young people on an employed or voluntary basis.

#### Parent

A generic term which includes parents/carers and guardians.

#### In Loco Parentis

The additional obligation on a coach, or other individual with responsibility for children, to act as a ‘reasonable parent’ would be expected to act.

#### Risk Assessment

A procedure to help identify possible sources of danger and take appropriate action to minimise these risks. The risk assessment process considers, the number, age and competence of participants plus the nature of the activity, playing surface etc.

#### Lead Child Protection/Safeguarding Officer

Person responsible for safeguarding within Coerver Coaching.

#### Deputy Lead Child Protection/Safeguarding Officer

Works with the Lead Safeguarding Officer and deputises for them, as and when required.

#### Welfare Officer

The designated individual with responsibility for safeguarding in a Coerver Coaching Licenced Territory.