

NORTHERN COUNTIES PONY ASSOCIATION.

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION POLICY.

As an organisation, the Northern Counties Pony Association does not organise shows or events specifically for children and young people under the age of 18, or for vulnerable adults. However, we do recognise that we have a duty of care to children and vulnerable adults in relation to our organised shows and events which have competition categories for under-18 year olds.

We recognise that as an Association we have the following responsibilities to:

- Promote the health and welfare of children and vulnerable adults by providing opportunities for them to take part in Northern Counties Pony Association organised events safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feeling of children and vulnerable adults.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and vulnerable adults and protect them from abuse.
- Require all judges, stewards and officials at recognised shows and events, both inside and outside rings, to adopt and abide by this Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children or vulnerable adults in line with this Policy.
- Review and evaluate this Policy on a regular basis.

We also recognise the following principles:

The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting them from abuse. Children and vulnerable adults have a lot to gain from their association with ponies and horses. Their natural sense of fun and spontaneity can blossom in a positive environment created by pony associations. It provides an excellent opportunity for them to learn new skills, become more confident and maximise their own unique potential. This Policy is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is the primary concern.
- All children and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and or/sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.

- It is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns about abuse and the responsibility of the Social Services and Police to conduct, where appropriate, a joint investigation.
- All incidents of alleged poor practice, misconduct and abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All personal data will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

We wish to promote good practice with young people in the horse industry by encouraging the following guidelines for the Northern Counties Pony Association and approved judges who work with young people and vulnerable adults.

- Always encourage an open environment.
- Always ensure that you are never left alone with one child – avoid situations where you and an individual child are completely unobserved.
- Treat young people equally and with respect.
- Always maintain appropriate relationships with young people, e.g. it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child.
- Make pony-related activities an enjoyable experience for children and young people.
- Ensure that if any manual or physical support is required, it should be provided openly and according to accepted good practice.
- Involve parents/carers wherever possible.
- Recognise the development needs and capacity of young people – avoiding excessive training or competition and not forcing them against their will.

Practice to be avoided includes:

Except in emergency situations the following should not become common practice:

- Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
- Taking children alone on car journeys.
- Taking children to your home where they will be alone with you.

In situations where these cases are unavoidable they should occur with the consent of a parent or carer.

First aid should be administered by a qualified person with the minimum of physical contact.

The following activities should never be sanctioned:

- Rough physical or sexually provocative games.
- Engaging in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Allowing children to use any inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Doing things of a personal nature for a young child that they could do for themselves.
- Making sexually suggestive comments to a young person even in fun.
- Inviting or allowing a young person to stay with you at your home unsupervised.

As an organisation the Northern Counties Pony Association subscribes to the relevant sections of the British Horse Society's booklet "Duty of Care – Guidelines for the Horse Industry" and also to sportscotland's "Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection – Model Policy and Procedures"

Copies of these two publications are retained by the general secretary and are available on request.