



**For all Adults in Scouting (aged 18 and over)**  
**Essential information – keep it with you.**

*It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm*

## **YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST**

### **Child Protection – A code of good practice**

#### **What happens if...?**

If you suspect abuse, a young person confides in you, or a complaint is made about any adult or about yourself, it is your duty to report the concern.

#### **If a young person tells you about abuse by someone else:**

1. Allow the young person to speak without interruption, accepting what is said
2. Offer immediate understanding and reassurance, while passing no judgement
3. Advise that you will try to offer support but that you must pass the information on
4. Immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
5. Write careful notes of what was said; use actual words wherever possible
6. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
7. Ensure that no Scouting situation arises which could cause any further concern

*Note: In an emergency (young person at imminent risk of significant harm) contact police or social service/work department direct. Inform your District Commissioner of the action you have taken.*

*Continued...*

#### **If you have a concern about a young person's safety and well being:**

1. Immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or was told
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
4. Ensure that no Scouting situation arises which could cause any further concern

#### **If you receive a complaint or allegation about any adult or about yourself:**

1. Immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or was told
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
4. Try to ensure no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise

*Note: Any Adult in Scouting has the right to report any concerns, or suspicions about another Member in confidence and free from harassment.*

#### **You must refer; you must not investigate.**

*If in any doubt about policy or procedure please contact the Scout Information Centre on **0845 300 1818***

[www.scouts.org.uk/childprotection](http://www.scouts.org.uk/childprotection)

