



**Vauxhall Chiltern Ladies Hockey believes:**

- That the safety and welfare of children should always be of paramount importance, whatever the circumstances.
- That everyone with a role in working with children has a moral and arguably a legal responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse.
- That special care is needed in dealing with children whose age, inexperience or physical state makes them particularly vulnerable to abuse.

**Vauxhall Chiltern Ladies Hockey**

- Has adopted this Child Protection Policy to ensure that the welfare and safety of children in the care, or custody of, Vauxhall Chiltern Ladies Hockey is their primary consideration.
- Is committed to providing an environment where children can learn about, participate in and enjoy hockey free from harassment or abuse.

**The Policy is created on the following three principles:**

- A child's welfare is the paramount consideration.
- A child, regardless of age, ability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation has a right to be protected from abuse.
- The rights, dignity and worth of a child should always be respected.

The Children Act 1989 states that anyone who is involved in the care of children should “do what is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare”.

Vauxhall Chiltern Ladies Hockey shall hereafter be known as VCLH

**Policy guidelines**

- The welfare of vulnerable members, both adults and children, is the first consideration.
- All members have the right to be protected from bad practice, neglect, bullying and all forms of emotional and physical abuse.
- Suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

Adopted by Vauxhall Chiltern Ladies Hockey July 2006

- It is the duty of all members suspecting inappropriate behaviour and actions to act on any concern.
- As defined in the Children Act 1989, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this Policy
- To treat all members fairly, equitably and without prejudice.
- Not to participate in or tolerate behaviour that frightens, degrades, embarrasses, demoralises or negatively affects a member's self esteem
- Not to tolerate acts of aggression
- Photography - Members should be aware that the recording of photographic images might be inappropriate.
- The members of VCLH should not discriminate on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, colour, disability, sexuality, age, occupation, religion or political opinion.

The appointment of a Child Welfare Officer, Carolyn Doherty, has been made at a meeting of VCLH and this fact will be advertised with the information provided for juniors at the beginning of the season.