

Sporta conference – safeguarding for leisure trusts

Tuesday 7 November 2017

Notes and actions

Higher risk groups & communities. An overview & members discussion on community groups or populations who may be more vulnerable or at risk, of incidents

A summary of the group work discussions facilitated by Nicola Dean of ACT and Cate Atwater of Sporta.

Which community groups or populations may be more vulnerable or at risk of, incidents?

- Elderly, ageing 55-60, over 65
- Disabled people – physical/ learning/ visual
- Disability sporting groups
- People with dementia
- Significant medical problems
- Mental health
- LGBTQ community/ transgender
- BME/ ethnic minority groups
- Gender
- Young females
- Hard to engage
- People with access issues
- Veterans
- Isolated
- Economical
- Low income over 20
- Looked after children
- Youth Offending Groups/ ex-offenders
- Care home accessing external activities
- Hospice
- Mixed use facility/ services. GPs/ Leisure Centre
- Holiday camp programmes
- Homeless
- Carer support
- Staff
- Vulnerable staff/ training not sufficient for specialist groups

In post-conference discussions an important consideration was raised, which is included here.

It is important to recognise that a person, group or population may be recognised as being from a minority group – but that does not automatically mean that they are higher risk with regards to safeguarding. Equally, by providing inclusive and equitable opportunities for diverse groups, that does not immediately mean a higher safeguarding risk. With regards to adults, this comes back to the three ‘criteria’ of being an adult at risk, as:

An adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

For the purpose of this conference, the conclusive perspective is that as operators, we need know what to do if there are any safeguarding issues e.g. policy, procedures, points of contact – and to ensure that staff and customers know what they are and what to do.

What are the incidents that may occur?

- Violence
- Grooming
- Hate crimes & racial incidents
- Discrimination

- Abuse
- Targeted individuals
- Theft – e.g. financial abuse by carer to person with care and support needs attending the facility
- Unwelcome advances
- When re-adapting to society
- Carers not supporting or neglecting individuals taking part in activities

What do we do already to keep people safe?

- Clear process within a facility for dealing with safeguarding concerns
- Have designated safeguarding officer within organisations – staff know where to go to
- Staff know how to escalate any concerns
- Work with other agencies locally – know where to go to for some advice e.g. Local Safeguarding Adults Boards and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards
- Knowing who does what – partnership working
- Encourage an open culture and discussions within the staff team
- Notice changes in behaviour or physical changes that may indicate that someone is being harmed or needs support
- Undertake staff training on specific issues e.g. domestic violence. Signs and signals and where to go for advice.
- Run a carers support group alongside a session for people with care needs
- Staff confident to approach carers who are not supervising people properly

Horizon scanning

- Personal budgets
 - Understanding personal budgets, and their use
 - How best to meet a person's support needs
- Need to develop standards for leisure (and culture)
- Duty of Care and changes to 'position of trust' in relation to sports coaches
- Volunteers – their increasing role in activities and services, and the need for guidance and regulation
- Improved communications and sharing of knowledge within safeguarding organisations and providers
- Training specifically for leisure

Specifically, from Sport England, ten broad areas

- Legislation
- Information sharing
- Training & development / research
- Case management
- Private leisure providers / leisure operators
- Organisations in receipt of public funding
- Safeguarding adults
- Organisations not in receipt of public funding or sports not recognised
- Kitemarks / accreditations
- Parental engagement

Actions

- Circulate a template 'adult at risk safeguarding policy' – Nicola Dean and Cate Atwater
- Discuss with Sport England an online, leisure specific resource and training regarding safeguarding of children and young people.
 - Various members offered immediate support
 - Fusion – have a bespoke e-learning tool & keen to collaborate on redevelopment
- Circulate copies of all the resources discussed at the conference – **completed**.
- Culture based services need support and guidance
- Circulate the DBS guidance – **completed**.
- Future events e.g. DBS, culture, leisure standards etc