

BTYC Child Welfare summary

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is a term used to describe ways in which children can be harmed by adults and other young people, and often by those they know and trust.

Abuse can be: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, bullying

Child Welfare Officer

Mike Green is BTYC's Child Welfare Officer – he is the first person to speak to if you have any concerns or questions.

Basic guidelines

- Always be publicly open when working with young people
- If it is necessary to make physical contact with the young person always tell them beforehand and ask if they have any objections

You should avoid:

- Spending excessive amounts of time working alone with children in isolation
- Taking young people alone on car journeys, however short
- Taking young people to your home

You should never:

- Engage in inappropriate physical contact, rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun
- Agree to meet a young person on your own, outside the context of the normal coaching or mentoring process
- Do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves
- Allow allegations to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.

Acting on concerns

It is not your responsibility to determine if abuse has taken place, however it is your responsibility to act upon and report any concerns.

If you have any concerns regarding a young person or if a young person informs you directly that he/she, or another young person, is concerned about someone's behaviour towards them,

don't...

- rush into actions that may be inappropriate
- make promises you cannot keep
- ask more questions than are necessary for you to be sure that you need to act
- take sole responsibility – consult someone else

do...

- react immediately, but remain calm
- contact the Club Welfare Officer immediately
- make a detailed note of your observations and/or exactly what was said