



BADMINTON NORTH HARBOUR CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

“Our organisation is committed to keeping children healthy and safe. We may share information with appropriate agencies (such as health and education providers or other agencies involved with your child’s life) if sharing that information will protect or improve the safety, health or well-being of a child. Our organisation by law can always share information with Child, Youth & Family and the Police. Further information can be found in our Child Protection Policy below and on our website: www.bnh.org.nz”

An organisation with a culture of child protection is open and accountable, understands the needs of children, and makes their safety and security a priority. This child protection policy reflects these values and supports the organisation in creating a safe environment for children, as well as for staff. An organisation which supports a culture of child protection is one where concerns for a child’s wellbeing are identified and responded to quickly, where staff are trained and supported to provide positive outcomes for children with a robust and effective child protection policy.

The existence of a written policy does not establish a safe environment for children, it is the implementation, use and ongoing review of the policy that creates a child protection focused organisation.

INTRODUCTION

Definitions

For purposes of this policy ‘child’ means a boy or girl under the age of 14 years, ‘young person’ means a boy or girl of or over the age of 14 years but under 17 years.

For purposes of this policy ‘staff’ means all those employed by Badminton North Harbour, whether paid or voluntary, full time or part-time.

For purposes of this policy ‘Designated Person for Child Protection’ means the person assigned to this role at Badminton North Harbour.

DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE

The Children, Young Persons and their Families Act, 1989, defines child abuse as 'the harming (whether physically, emotionally, sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect, or deprivation of any child or young person'.

Physical abuse is a non-accidental act on a child that results in physical harm. This includes, but is not limited to, beating, hitting, shaking, burning, drowning, suffocating, biting, poisoning or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse also involves the fabrication or inducing of illness.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effect on the child's emotional development. This can include a pattern of rejecting, degrading, ignoring, isolating, corrupting, exploiting or terrorising a child. It may also include age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It also includes the seeing or hearing the ill treatment of others.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities as well as non-contact acts such as involving children in the looking at or production of sexual images, sexual activities and sexual behaviours.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, causing long term serious harm to the child's health or development. It may also include neglect of a child's basic or emotional needs. Neglect is a lack: of action, emotion or basic needs.

POLICY SUMMARY

Principles

Badminton North Harbour is committed to the prevention of abuse and the well-being of children and young people. Badminton North Harbour accepts that we have organisational and individual responsibilities to act to protect the safety of vulnerable children.

The right of children to be protected from abuse and neglect is a fundamental human right.

Purpose

The purposes of this policy are to assist staff to respond appropriately when child abuse or neglect is suspected or identified and to respond to the needs of vulnerable children who come to the notice of Badminton North Harbour without the presence of indicators of abuse or neglect.

The most effective way to safeguard children is to have a comprehensive and effective policy, with attached practices and guidelines. This policy is written under the principle that children and young people engaged with Badminton North Harbour have a right to feel safe and comfortable in that contact.

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated regularly in the light of operational experience and in line with changes in legislation and associated policies.

Reviewed March 2018

Scope

The scope of this policy covers all children who interact with Badminton North Harbour, whether visiting the venue or traveling as part of a team.

ORGANISATIONAL COMMITMENT TO CHILD PROTECTION

The policy outlines Badminton North Harbour's responsibilities and expectations of how staff should respond when they come across situations where child abuse or neglect is suspected or identified. Staff who understand their responsibilities under this policy and act appropriately will make a significant contribution to helping keep children safe.

Our goal is that staff are able to identify vulnerable children.

To enable them to do this they will:

Be able to recognise the potential indicators of abuse or neglect.

Be aware of the risk that persons and situations may pose to children.

Access available child protection information and training, appropriate to the role.

Make sure a factual account of their concerns and actions taken are recorded.

Badminton North Harbour will ensure that:

They have a Designated Person for Child Protection.

There is an organisation-wide policy for the appropriate response to, and management of, reports of suspected or confirmed child abuse and neglect and the identification of vulnerable children, including vulnerable disabled children.

All staff understand their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the safety of children at all times.

Staff are vigilant and have knowledge and awareness of the indicators of neglect, potential or actual abuse and report any concerns, suspicions or allegations of suspected abuse immediately and ensure that the concern is taken seriously and reported.

Badminton North Harbour commits to using safer recruitment procedures, including compliance with any requirements in the Vulnerable Children Act.

Badminton North Harbour will take steps to ensure that:

All staff are conversant with our Child Protection Policy and related procedures.

Staff receive information about the policy, access to training and/or resource material and periodic updates appropriate to their areas of work and roles in the organisation.

All staff have a responsibility to keep children safe and have a role in reporting concerns of potential or actual abuse.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

The Privacy Act 1993 and the Children, Young Persons, and their Families Act 1989 allow information to be shared to keep children safe when abuse or suspected abuse is reported or investigated. Note that, under sections 15 & 16 of the Children, Young Persons, and their Families Act, any person who believes that a child has been, or is likely to be, harmed physically, emotionally or sexually or ill-treated, abused, neglected or deprived may report the matter to Child, Youth and Family or the Police and, provided the report is made in good faith, no civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings may be brought against them.

Reviewed March 2018

TRAINING OF STAFF

All appointments (permanent, fixed term, student, casual or volunteer) to positions that have direct and/or frequent contact with children or young people will be conditional on a safety check (including vetting).

All staff will receive child protection training and/or information at the level appropriate to their role.