



Safeguarding Policy Statement 2026

The guiding principles behind the safeguarding policy adopted by the New Forest Bloodhounds are set out in the Master documents prepared by the British Equestrian Federation (BEF)– this is the Governing Body for all Equestrian Sport and Activities in the UK.

The New Forest Bloodhounds places the highest priority on the safety and enjoyment of all those persons participating in its organised activities, including children, young people and adults at risk – and is committed to promoting the highest possible standard of care. It therefore aims to ensure that all children, young people, and adults at risk, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio economic background have a positive and enjoyable experience of our activities in a safe environment.

This document will be reviewed annually or where there are significant changes to legislation and/or statutory guidance.

The full Safeguarding Policy documents prepared by the British Equestrian Federation can be downloaded from the BEF website, or accessed via the following links:

[Children and Young People](#)

[Adults at Risk](#)

To meet its objective the New Forest Bloodhounds commits to:

- Ensuring children, young people and adults at risk are protected from harm, abuse and degrading treatment whilst participating in equestrian sports and associated activities;
- Helping everyone to adopt best practice to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk from abuse;

- Taking all steps to ensure that the protection of children and young people is the primary consideration and may override the rights and needs of those adults working with them;
- We recognise that ability and disability can change over time, such that some adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, in particular those adults with care and support needs;
- For adults at risk we will seek to ensure that the starting assumption is that a person has the capacity to make a decision unless it can be established that they lack the capacity to make a decision;
- Ensuring all allegations, suspicions of harm and concerns will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately; and
- Working in partnership to promote the welfare, health and development of children and young people. The Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) document published by the Department of Education states that:

o Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action and;

o In order that organisations, agencies and practitioners collaborate effectively, it is vital that everyone working with children and families, including those who work with parents/carers, understands the role they should play and the role of other practitioners.

- The New Forest Bloodhounds Safeguarding Policy aims to help all those involved in our activity understand what they need to do, and what they can expect of one another, to safeguard children. It focuses on core legal requirements and makes clear what individuals and organisations should do to keep children and young people safe.
- The Executive Committee of the New Forest Hound endorses this policy and is responsible for ensuring that this Safeguarding Policy is implemented and will deal with any actual or potential breaches.
- The Chairman of the New Forest Bloodhounds has the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Policy, supported by all of the Executive Committee and anyone in charge of children or the vulnerable.

The following is taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;

- promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and is defined for the purpose of this guidance as activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suspected to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. This includes harm that occurs inside or outside the home, including online.

Effective safeguarding means practitioners should understand and be sensitive to factors, including economic and social circumstances and ethnicity, which can impact children and families' lives.

It applies to all children up to the age of 18 years whether living with their families, in state care, or living independently.

This document should be complied with unless exceptional circumstances arise.

This statutory guidance sets out key roles for individual organisations and agencies to deliver effective arrangements for help, support, safeguarding, and protection. It should be read and followed by leaders, managers and frontline practitioners of all organisations and relevant agencies.

Successful outcomes for children depend on strong partnership working between parents/carers and the practitioners working with them. Practitioners should take a child centred approach to meeting the needs of the whole family.

As set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework, the following principles apply here too:

- children's welfare is paramount
- children's wishes and feelings are sought, heard, and responded to
- children's social care works in partnership with whole families
- children are raised by their families, with their family networks or in family environments wherever possible

- local authorities work with other agencies to effectively identify and meet the needs of children, young people, and families
- Local authorities consider the economic and social circumstances impacting children, young people, and families

Children have said that they need:

- vigilance: to have adults notice when things are troubling them
- understanding and action: to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon
- stability: to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them
- respect: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not
- information and engagement: to be informed about, and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans
- explanation: to be informed of the outcome of assessments, and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response
- support: to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family
- advocacy: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views
- protection: to be protected against all forms of abuse, exploitation, and discrimination, and the right to special protection and help if a refugee

Specific control measure on a hunting day for mounted field:

- The NFBH on a hunting day believes it has good practice firmly established and that no child will be alone with any **one adult at any time**.
- The NFBH operates a pre-booking in system all mounted field must pre-book (max 40 riders on a hunting day) as part of the booking in system this safeguarding policy is attached and there is a requirement within the system that it must be marked as read.
- All mounted children and their parent/and or responsible person must declare themselves the hunt secretary who will confirm details as entered when pre-booked.
- If the parent and or responsible person are not riding then they will be required to follow on foot, until the day is concluded, this will be confirmed to them by the hunt secretary when they declare.
- The Hunting Day is outside attended by a lot of people (mounted and on foot) children will unbox and arrive at the meet accompanied by their own parents or named responsible adult.
- Once the meet has finished the children will follow that Fieldmaster's (A & B fields) to the start of the first hunting line. There will not be an opportunity for anyone to be alone with a child, in the event of an accident where a child falls off or pony goes 4 lame and may have to be pulled up it may be necessary for a vehicle to collect the child with a parent or responsible adult.

- If a child falls and are seriously injured a 999 call for medical assistance will be made, if not present parents will be informed immediately, (normally by phone) two or more adults will assist the potentially injured child until the medics arrive and or parents arrive.
- The mounted field will be instructed to always follow the field master's so that they can keep a watchful eye over the whole field.
- The NFBH believe there is not an opportunity at the event for any abuse of any kind to take place with children, however they do remain vigilant and have communicated this policy to all those taking an active role in organising a hunting day to ensure that all those taking part are kept safe. • All persons with an active role on a hunting day including, masters, quarry team (runners), and welfare persons will have to sign that they have read and acknowledged this policy in advanced. • If you have a young person hunting, we strongly advise you to join our official information WhatsApp group which contains information and maps of the routes to be hunted, so in the case of an incident you will know where to go to collect your young person.

To join please WhatsApp 07824469573 and request to join.

Dated 23/08/2026