

# **Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy**

Adopted by the Trustees of BMRT 9 July 2007

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team (BMRT) does not accept children or young people as Operational Members although in rare circumstances young people may be accepted as Prospective Members, Associate Members or Honorary Members. The team can expect to have dealings with children, young people and vulnerable adults both during its operational activities and through lectures and demonstrations involving such groups.

It is the policy of BMRT that, in all its dealings with children, young people and vulnerable adults, the team will:

- promote their general welfare, health and development, and take every precaution to minimise risk of any kind.
- ensure that its members are aware of this policy and carry out their responsibilities under it.
- require its members to sign the St John Ambulance Declaration of Offences Policy.
- require its members to submit to a Criminal Records Bureau check.
- ensure that effective procedures are in place for reporting and responding to complaints and allegations of abuse. This will include informing the appropriate St John Ambulance Child Protection Officer.
- in the case of an allegation being made against a member, immediately suspend that member from all BMRT activities. This is a neutral act as much for the protection of the member as for the person who made the allegation. The suspension will remain in place until all enquiries, whether by the team, St John Ambulance or the police are completed, and recommendations are made as to the future service of the suspended member.

In aiming to achieve these standards BMRT requires that, when dealing with children, young people and vulnerable adults, its members:

- accept responsibility for their protection and treat their welfare and well-being as paramount.
- treat them with dignity and respect.
- respect personal privacy.
- be sensitive to their needs.
- avoid any unnecessary physical contact. If this is unavoidable ensure that another adult is present.
- avoid questionable activity e.g. rough / sexually provocative behaviour and inappropriate language.
- wherever possible avoid one-to-one situations or running events single-handed.
- challenge unacceptable behaviour.
- not tolerate bullying.
- report immediately any allegation or suspicion of abuse to a member of the BMRT Management Committee.

End of Child Protection Policy