

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team

Protection of Children and Vulnerable People Policy

Authorised by the Trustees 13 May 2013

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team (BMRT) does not accept anyone under the age of eighteen in any class of membership. However the team may expect to have occasional dealings with children and vulnerable adults both during its operational activities and through talks and demonstrations given to such groups. In this context some of the recipients of our services could be said to be vulnerable because they may need medical care or transportation to a place where they receive medical care and would therefore be considered vulnerable at that time.

In all its dealings with children and vulnerable adults, BMRT 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.
- ensure that effective procedures are in place for reporting and responding to complaints and allegations of abuse.
- 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 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 and vulnerable adults, and regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs, its members will:

- accept responsibility for their protection and treat their welfare and well-being as paramount.
- treat them with dignity and respect.
- respect personal privacy, including no photography without permission of a responsible adult.
- be sensitive to their needs.
- avoid any unnecessary physical contact. If this is unavoidable ensure another adult is present.
- avoid questionable activity e.g. rough or 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.

Reporting and responding to complaints and allegations.

A complaint, allegation or suspicion falling within the terms of this policy should be made in strict confidence to any Trustee of the team. The Trustee must immediately inform the Chairman or Vice Chairman who will act in accordance with the General Discipline and Disputes section of the team Standing Orders.

The Trustees will request details of any complaints or allegations at each meeting of the Management Committee.

End of Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy