



SAFEGUARDING FOR EQUESTRIANS

Case Study 1: Daniel – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- The frustration of the parent is causing risk of harm and assault to Daniel.
- There is also a flag about Daniel's behaviour. It could be that there are other reasons he is acting this way. Is the behaviour out of character? Could there be something else going on at the show, at school or at home?

What would you do?

- If it is possible to safely prevent the physical assault by offering to assist in getting Daniel to take part in activities, then you should do so.
- Depending on the environment, assess whether you can speak to Daniel to understand what is going on and encourage him to take part safely. Make sure Daniel's voice is heard.
- Make sure Daniel knows that you are available to listen to him if needed. He may make a disclosure at a later date.
- Address the father's behaviour in private. Adam needs to have a frank conversation about prohibited conduct and his interaction with Daniel. You could speak to the designated Equestrian Safeguarding Officer about having this conversation with Adam if needed.
- Adam's reaction to this conversation will help to inform next steps. If there are red flags and other factors at play, it could lead to a MASH/social services referral.
- NB. Remember the regional variation in the law between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on physical punishment.

Consider the risk of harm

Gather the required information (remember the voice of the child)

Address any concerning behaviours

Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

Recognise: What warning signs are there here? Know what to look out for.

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinion.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.



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Case Study 2: Betty – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- There are some concerning red flags around a possible grooming situation and/or abuse of Position of Trust. There may be breaches of the Code of Conduct.
- There may be illegal drinking taking place.

What would you do?

- Find out who the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) is at the show and make them aware of the situation. They will be able to safely information gather.
- The DSO will speak to Betty's parent(s) or carer(s) to make them aware and do some information gathering.
- The DSO will speak to the coach about the accommodation situation and the allegation related to underage drinking. If illegal drinking becomes apparent, there may be a MASH referral. Remember that it is possible at this stage the coach is not aware of the intention to take the alcohol.
- NB. Remember the law on drinking alcohol under the age of 18. See: The law on alcohol and under 18s | Drinkaware

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Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

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Case Study 3: Claire – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- The category of concern here is bullying and prohibited conduct.
- We are lacking relevant information. We do not know anything about the in-person behaviours, and we also do not have the content of all of the online messages (for example, those sent through Snapchat), which means we do not know how serious the allegations are at this stage.
- The consequences of failing to act could lead to other staff leaving, impacts on mental health and wellbeing, and/or an escalation of the behaviours.

What would you do?

- Make sure that the incident gets reported to your designated Equestrian Safeguarding Officer (ESO) and the Member Body Safeguarding Lead.
- Carry out comprehensive information-gathering. Depending on the evidence gathered, make any necessary referrals (for example, if the content of the messages amounts to a criminal offence).
- Consider the fact that Claire is still a child. Speak to her parent(s)/guardian(s) as appropriate, gather her version of events, and have regard to what may be causing her behaviour. Ensure any of these meetings have written records that are kept securely.
- Inform Claire of any breaches of the Code of Conduct and follow employment and safeguarding policy in terms of sanctions (e.g. a written warning). Put in place support as needed.
- Ensure the victims have appropriate support in place and provide training to staff and members around safe use of social media and the Code of Conduct.

Consider the risk of harm

Gather the required information (remember the voice of the child)

Address any concerning behaviours

Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

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Case Study 4: Layla – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- Sexual assault and rape are serious criminal offences and need to be reported to the police. Organisations have a duty to keep their participants and members safe, and therefore you have to take action and make relevant referrals.
- It will be important to help Layla to cope with what has happened as she develops understanding, especially with her mental and emotional wellbeing.

What would you do?

- Discuss with Layla and her parents how they want the situation to be handled. Explain that the police have to be informed.
- If Layla and her parents are willing to inform the police then support them through that process. Even if they do not want to report it, you have a duty to refer this matter to the police and to follow their advice. It is mandatory for those in a Position of Trust to refer safeguarding reports. You may commit a disciplinary offence if you fail to do so.
- Refer the concern to your designated Equestrian Safeguarding Officer (ESO) and the Member Body Safeguarding Lead. The Member Body Safeguarding Lead will check whether Kayden works or volunteers for other organisations that involve children.
- The LADO should be informed, as any professional or volunteer who works with children and has behaved inappropriately or may have harmed a child meets the threshold for LADO referral. This must not interfere with any ongoing police investigation. Any further activity will be as guided by police.
- Once the police have concluded their activities, you may be required to conduct a risk assessment to assess whether Kayden should continue to operate in federation activities. Your Member Body Safeguarding Lead will be able to support you with this. Remember that the criminal burden of proof is beyond reasonable doubt, whereas our burden of proof is on the balance of probabilities.

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Address any concerning behaviours

Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

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Case Study 5: Irene – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- There are health, safety and welfare concerns related to Irene and those around her.
- There is an evident lack of consent for any external referrals to support services.
- There is also a potential equine welfare risk should something go wrong in competition.

What would you do?

- You do not yet have enough information. You should speak to those who made the referral to understand what concerns them, and why they are concerned about Irene's state of mind.
- You should speak with Zuri, to understand what support network is in place for Irene as this is relevant to your assessment of risk of harm.
- You could speak to Irene to understand more about why she does not want external help.
- Be sure to keep notes of these conversations and try to write the actual words used where you can.
- Refer the matter to your Member Body Safeguarding Lead for their awareness and advice.
- Be conscious of the requirements around consent and confidentiality in safeguarding adults. Remember that if you have a concern that an adult is at risk of immediate harm, you can report it to the statutory agencies without the consent of the individual.
- You can reach out to the Ann Craft Trust and gain their advice, without revealing any personal data that may identify Irene.
- If it is decided that the club cannot continue to allow Irene to drive for safety and welfare concerns, then consider other ways in which Irene can take part in club activities which do not involve driving.

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Gather the required information

Address any concerning behaviours

Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

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Case Study 6: Emma – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- You do not yet have all the relevant information to assess the risk of harm with Emma's injury.
- If Emma does continue, she risks further injury or harm. Any refusal by the parent to provide medical care could constitute neglect or physical abuse.

What would you do?

- As a bystander, it would not be unusual for you to ask about what happened in a way that allows you to assess whether Emma has had any medical attention.
- You will then need to speak in private to whoever is leading the activity so that they are aware and can make appropriate enquiries.
- This should include a conversation with Emma herself to understand what happened and whether it is safe for her to continue with the activities. It is important in scenarios like this to make sure that the voice of the child is heard.
- The incident should be reported to the Equestrian Safeguarding Officer (ESO), but if urgent may also require 111/999 for medical support, and depending on the further information revealed may also require a social services referral.

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Gather the required information (remember the voice of the child)

Address any concerning behaviours

Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

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Case Study 7: George – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- The category of concern here is physical abuse.
- There may also be a breach of safeguarding policy/code of conduct to address based on Asha's decision to ask Imogen to accompany George to the office unsupervised.
- Depending on her role, Imogen may hold a Position of Trust.
- There are inappropriate behaviours towards equines to address.

What would you do?

- The matter should be referred to your Equestrian Safeguarding Officer (ESO) and Member Body Safeguarding Lead, and information gathering will be required to understand what happened. At the point of disclosure, the report is hearsay from a third party.
- Assess the immediate risk of harm. Refer the incident to the LADO. They will advise over any police or social services referrals.
- Depending on LADO guidance, consider a provisional suspension of Imogen. If you decide to remove her from post, you may need to make a DBS/PVG/Access NI referral.
- Assess any further breaches of policy/code of conduct with LADO and ESO (e.g. the lack of supervision) and put in place any measures agreed.
- Depending on any police/LADO outcome speak to George and his parents, remembering the voice of the child. Create a safe environment, listen, explain what will happen next and do not make any promises of anonymity. Address the inappropriate behaviour towards horses.
- Provide training to your staff and members on the importance of appropriate behaviours, prohibited conduct and supervision.

Consider the risk of harm

Gather the required information (remember the voice of the child)

Address any concerning behaviours

Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

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Case Study 8: Misha – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- This case study relates to repeated instances of poor practice and lower-level concerns about a coach.
- As the Chair of the club, you will have been made aware of previous reports related to Misha, and any action or conversations that have already taken place. This will include whether the Equestrian Safeguarding Officer (ESO) has been involved so far.
- There may be breaches of the club code of conduct to address. There should be written records of previous concerns and action taken.

What would you do?

- The report should be referred to the Club ESO and Member Body Safeguarding Lead. They will be able to assess whether Misha has any additional roles with other federation Member Bodies. Refer to your Member Body's "reporting a concern" guidance.
- In line with ESO advice, carry out information gathering by speaking to the parents of the children involved (remember the voice of the child where possible).
- This is not an isolated incident and so will warrant further action, for example a disciplinary process under your safeguarding policy.
- In consultation with your ESO, consider the appropriateness of temporarily suspending the coach if you feel there is a risk to participants. If you do suspend, ensure there is a support person in place for the coach as a point of contact.
- Once the investigation has taken place, actions may include further training, mentorship, a written warning etc. Refer to your safeguarding policy and rules.
- To reduce risk moving forwards, run sessions with parents and participants about appropriate behaviour and acknowledge and support those who brought the concern to your attention.

Consider the risk of harm

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Address any concerning behaviours

Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

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Case Study 9: Annie – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- This case study relates to reporting and addressing poor practice/lower-level concerns.
- There is no suggestion that the photographs taken are indecent, but there may be a breach of event policy to address.
- It does not appear that permission for the photographs to be taken has been granted.

What would you do?

- Make your designated Equestrian Safeguarding Officer (ESO) at the event aware. Find out what the event policy on taking photographs is.
- If photographs of children are posted on social media when they are undergoing family court proceedings, this could put them at risk (it is unlawful to take photographs of children under local authority care without permission).
- Speak to Annie about her taking the photographs and advise her on the event policy.
- Her reaction will help to inform next steps. It may be able to be resolved locally, with any formal record/reporting made just for awareness. However, there could be further concerns which warrant an escalation.
- It is always important to record incidents where lower-level concerns have been addressed on Globocol. There may be a series of reported incidents related to Annie that you are unaware of. By reporting, any concerning patterns of behaviour can be identified.

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Gather the required information

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Case Study 10: Amelia – Guidance

Identifying relevant issues

- This case study relates to allegations of possession of illegal images and may also relate to sexual assault, based on the age of consent.
- The information at this point is hearsay from a third party. It is important not to prejudice any police investigation or cause undue detrimental impact on Freddie or Amelia at this stage.

What would you do?

- Focus initially on the disclosure. Listen carefully and reassure Amelia that she has done the right thing by talking to you. Do not promise to keep the information a secret but reassure her that the only people who will know are those that can help.
- Follow your Member Body reporting requirements, including writing down the facts of the disclosure as soon as possible (remember date/time), and include the reasons for any decisions you made to disclose the facts to anyone else. Try to write your notes in her own words.
- Report the matter to your designated Equestrian Safeguarding Officer (ESO) and Member Body Safeguarding Lead.
- We need to understand what is meant by “seeing”. It is a criminal offence (sexual assault) if you have sex with someone when you or they are under the age of 16, even if you have both have “given consent”. In the eyes of the law you are unable to consent to sex when under the age of 16.
- It is very important to handle these allegations confidentially, as they are currently hearsay. If it is found that Freddie has shared a nude, whether Amelia shared the image consensually or not, this is illegal. It is also important not to alert Freddie in case important evidence is then deleted from devices etc.
- The ESO will speak to Amelia and her parent(s) or carer(s). Whether they want the matter referred to the police or not, the Equ is under a duty to make the report. The police may choose not to take any further action.
- Depending on police activity, the yard will need to focus on supporting Amelia with signposting and making decisions around Freddie’s ongoing attendance at the site. It may be appropriate to suspend him, based on police advice. If the decision is taken to remove him permanently, a DBS /PVG/Access NI referral will be required.

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Address any concerning behaviours

Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

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