

Frequently asked questions...

Approved safeguarding training at appointment review

1. Why has this change been made?

The Association reviews its safeguarding arrangements constantly and, following a formal internal review and external advice from the NSPCC, it was decided that training in safeguarding should be an ongoing requirement, as it is with first aid. The issues facing Scouters in keeping young people safe are changing all the time and it's essential that we provide up to date training.

2. Who is responsible for ensuring adults have completed the training?

The appointee's line manager will need to check that those they review have completed the training; as they do for First Response (and Disclosure checks). Form AR reflects this.

3. Who is responsible for ensuring that training is available?

Counties / Areas / Regions (Scotland). Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinators can provide training sessions meeting the objectives and offer advice about the NSPCC Keeping Children Safe package.

4. Who manages the delivery of safeguarding training?

County / Area Training Managers or Assistant Region Commissioners (AT) (Scotland), in conjunction with Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinators. SACs have duties outlined in Policy, Organisation and Rules to monitor compliance with safeguarding arrangements and provide advice to Commissioners.

5. Who can deliver training?

Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinators or trainers who have completed the SAC training provided by Headquarters (details from safeguarding@scouts.org.uk).

6. How should we record this safeguarding training?

There is provision on MMS for training to be recorded.

7. Do Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinators have to do Module 28 & 29?

No. SACs receive specialist training from Headquarters, which includes training on effective workshop delivery, and they are not required to complete other training modules.

8. Which appointments does this rule apply to?

All those subject to an appointment review – essentially anyone who holds an appointment except for Occasional Helpers; Scout Active Support; and those in elected roles.

9. Who decides if the individual completes a session with an SAC or the online option?

The individual. We suggest that people alternate the method they opt for (if they did the online version for one review, they should attend a SAC session for the next etc).

10. What is the phase-in period for this rule?

The rule should be implemented immediately. As an interim measure, while Counties are establishing training opportunities or in areas where there is significant difficulty in undertaking training, an appointment review may proceed, providing the individual undertakes the approved training within the next 6-months. From 30th June 2011 reviews should only take place where the relevant training has been completed.

11. How is this training different to the safeguarding training delivered in Module 1?

Module 1 provides basic knowledge and information for Adults in Scouting regarding their role and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding young people. This training is delivered by specialist trainers who are equipped with a deeper knowledge of the subject matter. It supplements and builds on the training given in Module 1, so adults have more confidence in their safeguarding roles and responsibilities.

12. Are there any Scouting training resources available and must they be used?

Training materials are available to those who have completed the training for Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinators. The materials are designed to assist the delivery of workshops.

13. How long does this training take?

Participants in the NSPCC Keeping Children Safe package can complete the training at their own pace. Training workshops would normally be expected to last about 2-3 hours.

14. What should be checked at review?

Adults need to be able to demonstrate that they have completed safeguarding training during the period since their last review. Form AR has been amended to assist.

15. External courses can be used in 'exceptional circumstances' – what are these?

Our preference is a session with a Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinator or participation in the NSPCC Keeping Children Safe package. When this is not seen as a viable option, external courses (such as those offered by local authorities) may be a suitable way to meet this training obligation, subject to the prior approval of the Head of Safeguarding.

16. I am a police officer / social worker / teacher. Why should I have to be trained again?

Professional training for the likes of police officers, Social Workers or teachers will not have any Scouting context. For example, a specialist police officer will have a detailed understanding of the law and investigative techniques, but will not (by virtue of their professional background) have an understanding of what the Association's stance is in respect of alcohol on activities or best practice in terms of the Yellow Card.

17. Why should I have to do the same training every five years?

Safeguarding training is constantly reviewed and our understanding of the issues faced by young people change over time. The content of this training will, therefore, change to reflect this. Best practice suggests that those completing online training for one appointment review may benefit from doing an alternative method for the following one – but this is likely to be affected by local priorities.

18. Why is the NSPCC Keeping Children Safe package different to the SAC training?

In some areas it won't be possible for people to attend a face-to-face session for a variety of reasons, so 'Keeping Children Safe' is offered as an alternative. This training was developed by the Association (and others) with the NSPCC and will be reviewed in due course.

19. Shouldn't this training be completed before leaders have been involved for five years?

All adults complete Module One training and we would encourage participation in further safeguarding training at any time, however it is important that - in the initial stages of implementing this change – priority is given to those who are approaching their review date.