YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST
Child Protection – A code of good practice

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from neglect and from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

For all adults in Scouting (aged 18 and over)
Essential information – keep it with you.

What happens if…?
If you suspect abuse, a young person confides in you, or a complaint is made about any adult or about yourself, it is your duty to report the concern.

If a young person tells you about abuse by someone else:
1. Allow the young person to speak without interruption, accepting what is said
2. Offer immediate understanding and reassurance, while passing no judgement
3. Advise that you will try to offer support but that you must pass the information on
4. Immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
5. Write careful notes of what was said; use actual words wherever possible
6. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
7. Ensure that no Scouting situation arises which could cause any further concern

Note: In an emergency (young person at imminent risk of significant harm) contact police or social service/work department direct. Inform your District Commissioner of the action you have taken.

If you have a concern about a young person’s safety and well being:
1. Immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or was told
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
4. Ensure that no Scouting situation arises which could cause any further concern

If you receive a complaint or allegation about any adult or about yourself:
1. Immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or was told
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
4. Try to ensure no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise

Note: Any adult in Scouting has the right to report any concerns, or suspicions about another Member in confidence and free from harassment.

You must refer; you must not investigate.
If in any doubt about policy or procedure please contact the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818
www.scouts.org.uk/childprotection
Code of behaviour

DO put this code into practice at all times
DO treat everyone with dignity and respect
DO set an example you would wish others to follow
DO treat all young people equally – show no favouritism
DO plan activities that involve more than one other person being present, or at least are within sight and hearing of others
DO follow the recommended adult/young people ratios for meetings and activities
DO respect a young person’s right to personal privacy
DO avoid unacceptable situations within a relationship of trust e.g. a sexual relationship with a youth Member over the age of consent
DO have separate sleeping accommodation for young people, adults and Young Leaders working with a younger section
DO allow young people to talk about any concerns they may have
DO encourage others to challenge any attitudes or behaviours they do not like
DO avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour e.g. tantrums and crushes
DO ensure a no alcohol policy when young people are in your care – adults and young people
DO make everyone aware of the Association’s child protection procedures – young people, parents/carers, Young Leaders and other helpers
DO remember this code even at sensitive moments e.g. when responding to bullying, bereavement or abuse
DO keep other leaders informed of where you are and what you are doing
DO remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
DO take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer immediately

DO NOT trivialise abuse
DO NOT form a relationship with a young person that is an abuse of trust
DO NOT permit abusive peer activities e.g. initiation ceremonies, bullying
DO NOT engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact – physical, verbal, sexual
DO NOT play physical contact games with young people
DO NOT make suggestive remarks or threats to a young person, even in fun
DO NOT use inappropriate language – writing, phoning, email or internet
DO NOT let allegations, suspicions, or concerns about abuse go unreported
DO NOT just rely on your good name to protect you