



## Young People First Guidance for Young Leaders

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

You must have your own copy of this guidance before you start being a Young Leader, even if you are just trying out the role.

(Starting Young Leaders) Date card issued:.....

You should complete Module A (Prepare for take off) of the Young Leaders' Scheme by:.....

## What happens if...?

**A young person tells you about abuse by someone else:**

1. allow the young person to talk without interruption, just accept what is said
2. tell the young person that you treat what has been said seriously but you must pass it on to an adult Leader
3. immediately tell an adult Leader
4. make a note of the facts as you know them and give the information to the same Leader

**If you have a concern about a young person or you get a complaint about anyone, including yourself:**

1. immediately tell an adult Leader
2. make a note of the facts as you know them and give the information to the same Leader

# Code of behaviour

- DO** put this code in to practice at all times
- DO** treat everyone with respect
- DO** treat all young people equally - show no favouritism
- DO** plan activities with more than one other person present, or at least within sight and hearing of others
- DO** avoid situations that could affect relationships within the group (e.g. a relationship between a Young Leader and a youth member)
- DO** have separate sleeping accommodation for young people, Young Leaders and adults
- DO** allow young people to talk about any concerns they have
- DO** encourage others to talk freely about attitudes or behaviours they don't like
- DO** steer clear of inappropriate attention seeking behaviour e.g. flirting, crushes, tantrums, etc.
- DO** remember this code even at sensitive moments e.g. when responding to bullying, bereavement or abuse
  
- DO** remember this code when sending texts, emails, making phone calls and using the internet
- DO** tell adult Leaders where you are and what you are doing at all times
- DO** remember someone else might misunderstand your behaviour, however well meant
  
- DON'T** trivialise abuse
- DON'T** allow bullying
- DON'T** engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact e.g. play fights, insults, obscene gestures
- DON'T** get involved in physical contact games with young people, even if you are running them
- DON'T** make threats or suggestive or offensive remarks to a young person, even in fun
- DON'T** drink alcohol on Scouting activities
- DON'T** let allegations, suspicions, or concerns about abuse go unreported
- DON'T** believe 'it'll never happen to me'