

# Tewkesbury Junior Anglers

## Tewkesbury Junior Anglers (TJA)

### Exploitation Policy (Including CSE, CCE & County Lines)

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#### 1. Policy Statement

Tewkesbury Junior Anglers (TJA) is committed to protecting all children and young people involved in our activities from all forms of exploitation. Exploitation involves an imbalance of power where individuals or groups take advantage of others for their own gain or benefit, often through coercion, manipulation, or deception. TJA has a zero-tolerance approach to exploitation and is dedicated to creating a safe environment where children are protected and feel able to speak out. This policy operates as part of our overarching commitment to safeguarding, detailed in the TJA Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

#### 2. Purpose and Scope

**The purpose of this policy is to:**

- Raise awareness among volunteers about the nature of child exploitation, including specific forms like Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), and County Lines.
- Outline preventative measures TJA takes to reduce the risk of exploitation occurring within or affecting participants in our activities.
- Provide clear procedures for volunteers to follow if they suspect a child or young person is being exploited or is at risk of exploitation.
- This policy applies to all TJA committee members, volunteers, coaches, helpers, and participants.

#### 3. Types of Exploitation

**While exploitation can take various forms, TJA volunteers should be particularly aware of:**

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): This involves adults (or sometimes other young people) grooming, manipulating, coercing, or forcing a child into sexual activity for the benefit of the perpetrator or others. It can happen online or offline and may involve gifts, attention, or threats. Grooming is a key feature, where perpetrators build relationships and trust to lower inhibitions and gain control.
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE): This occurs when children are manipulated, forced, or coerced into committing crimes for the benefit of others. This can include theft, robbery, violence, carrying weapons, or drug-related offences.

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Perpetrators often use intimidation, threats, violence, or promise of reward (money, status, protection).

- **County Lines:** This is a specific form of CCE where criminal groups use dedicated mobile phone lines ('deal lines') to supply drugs, typically from urban areas to smaller towns or rural areas (like potentially Tewkesbury and surroundings). These groups exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs/money, often using coercion, intimidation, violence, and debt bondage. Children involved may be transported frequently, go missing, and be exposed to significant risks.

Other forms like labour exploitation or financial exploitation may also occur.

## 4. Recognising Potential Signs of Exploitation

**Exploitation can be difficult to spot, but volunteers should be alert to potential indicators. A child at risk may (this is not exhaustive):**

- Show sudden changes in behaviour, mood, attitude, or relationships.
- Frequently go missing from home, school, or activities, or be unwilling to say where they have been.
- Have unexplained money, expensive gifts (phones, clothes, trainers, bikes, potentially fishing equipment), or be excessively secretive about possessions.
- Have new, older, or controlling friends/partners who they are secretive about.
- Receive excessive calls or messages.
- Show signs of physical harm (unexplained injuries), neglect, or substance misuse.
- Appear withdrawn, anxious, frightened, angry, or disruptive.
- Exhibit inappropriate sexualised behaviour or knowledge (CSE).
- Be involved in or talk about crime or violence (CCE).
- Mention travel to other towns or areas, unfamiliar slang, or carrying weapons (County Lines).
- Be isolated from peers or usual hobbies (like angling).

## 5. Prevention Strategy

**TJA aims to create an environment hostile to exploitation by:**

- Implementing and enforcing our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Safer Recruitment Policy rigorously.
- Promoting and upholding a clear Code of Conduct for volunteers and encouraging positive behaviour from participants.
- Fostering positive relationships between volunteers and participants, creating an environment where children feel safe, respected, and able to talk about concerns.

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- Ensuring adequate supervision levels during all activities, appropriate to the age group and venue.
- Raising awareness among volunteers about the risks and signs of exploitation through training and information sharing.
- Working collaboratively with parents/carers, providing them with information on TJA's safeguarding commitment if appropriate.
- Clearly displaying contact details for the Named Safeguarding Lead and external support agencies (e.g., Childline, NSPCC).

## 6. Awareness Raising and Training Statement

TJA is committed to ensuring that all relevant volunteers receive appropriate safeguarding training that includes awareness of different forms of exploitation (including CSE, CCE, and County Lines). Training will cover:

- Understanding what exploitation is and how it can manifest.
- Recognising potential indicators and risk factors.
- Understanding the specific dynamics of CSE, CCE, and County Lines.
- Knowing TJA's reporting procedures and who to contact with concerns.
- Understanding the importance of reporting all concerns, however small they may seem.

Training records will be maintained.

## 7. Escalation Strategy (Reporting Concerns)

- This Exploitation Policy operates under the TJA Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Any volunteer who has any concern or suspicion that a child or young person involved with TJA is being exploited, is at risk of exploitation, or is involved in exploiting others MUST report it IMMEDIATELY.
- Concerns must be reported directly to the TJA Named Safeguarding Lead: Christopher Birch 07368 626282.
- If Christopher Birch is unavailable, or the concern relates to him, report IMMEDIATELY to the TJA Committee Chair (Secretary): Gareth Ferbrache 07368 679248.
- DO NOT attempt to investigate the concern yourself. Your responsibility is to report.
- Record your concerns factually (observations, dates, times, names, what was said/seen). Provide this written record to the Safeguarding Lead.
- The Named Safeguarding Lead will assess the information received in line with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and liaise with the appropriate statutory agencies (e.g., Gloucestershire MASH, Police) based on established thresholds and procedures.

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## **8. Supporting Children and Young People**

While TJA's primary role is identification and reporting, creating a supportive and trusting environment through our regular activities can help children feel safer and more able to disclose concerns. Volunteers should always act in the best interests of the child, listen non-judgmentally, and follow reporting procedures diligently.

## **9. Policy Review**

This Exploitation Policy will be reviewed annually by the TJA Committee, alongside the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, or sooner if required by changes in legislation, guidance, or local intelligence.