

# **1st4sport Qualifications Position Statement**

## **Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding**

## **1st4sport Qualifications Position Statement Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding**

### **Scope**

1st4sport Qualifications are committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in accordance with the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and Children's Act 2004. This is considered of high importance to 1st4sport operations, and therefore we aim to ensure the establishment of a safe environment to promote learning and development, while providing protection to children and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse. Therefore, it applies to 1st4sport staff, development partners, external quality assurers, recognised centres, learners and relevant third parties.

This Position Statement should be read in conjunction with the 1st4sport Qualifications Scope of Recognition Statement<sup>1</sup>.

### **Objective**

The objective of this position statement is to provide stakeholders with the knowledge, understanding and process to protect children and vulnerable adults within the awarding function. It covers the following areas:

- Definitions of Children Safeguarding and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding
- Types of abuse and definitions
- Examples of Good and Poor Practice
- 1st4sport Qualifications process for reporting suspected safeguarding concerns
- Corrective Actions

### **Definition**

Child Safeguarding can be defined as the process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development and ensuring they are growing up in a provision of safe and effective care to give children under the age of 18 years the pathway of entering adulthood successfully.

Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding refers to any person aged 18 or over who is currently unable to safeguard his or her own welfare or properly manage his or her financial affairs and falls within one or more of the following categories:

- a person suffering from an illness or mental disorder
- a person handicapped by a disability
- a person in need of care, due to infirmity or the effects of ageing.

---

<sup>1</sup> This can be found on the 1st4sport Qualifications website – [www.1st4sportqualifications.com](http://www.1st4sportqualifications.com) – in the 'About us' section.

## Types of abuse

Type of abuse	Definition
Physical abuse	Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child or failing to protect a child from that harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.
Emotional abuse	Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
Sexual abuse	Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact including both penetrative and non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
Neglect	Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing; shelter, including exclusion from home or abandonment; failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers; or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.
Bullying	Bullying may be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It can take many forms, but the three main types are physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name calling) and emotional (e.g. isolating an individual from the activities and social acceptance of their peer group).

## Examples of Good and Poor practice

### Good Practice

Individuals who work with or who have contact with children or vulnerable adults across the awarding function are required to operate in accordance with the following good practice:

- Respect children and vulnerable adults' rights treating them equally.
- Promote fair play and an enthusiastic environment.
- Be approachable and give constructive feedback, rather than negative criticism.
- Give learners encouragement and avoid putting pressure on them, due to excessive training or competition.
- Become an excellent role model by promoting and implementing best practice in sport, active leisure and education.
- Ensure learners participate in an environment free of harassment, bullying and abuse.

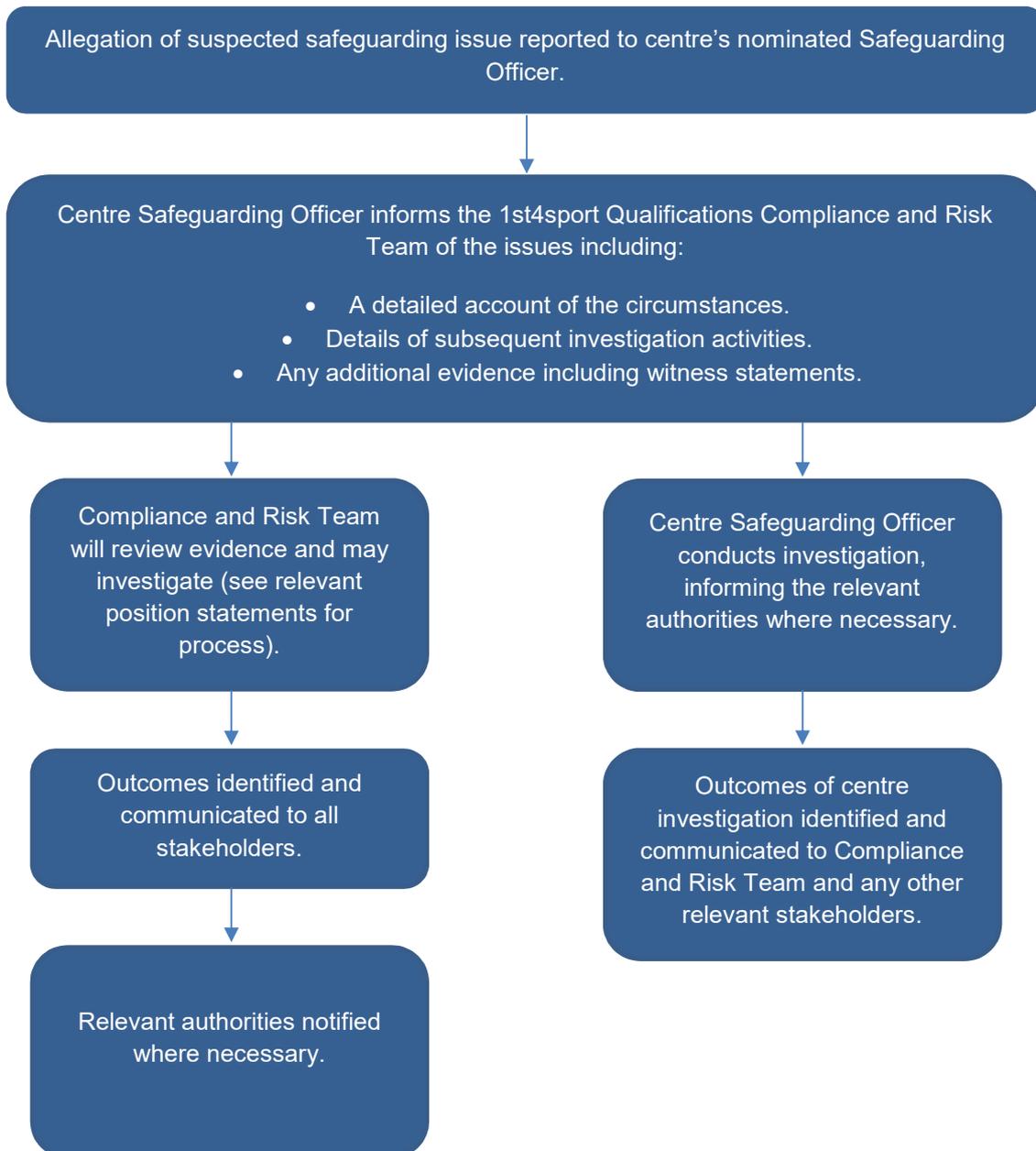
### Poor Practice

Individuals who work with or who have contact with children or vulnerable adults across the awarding function must never:

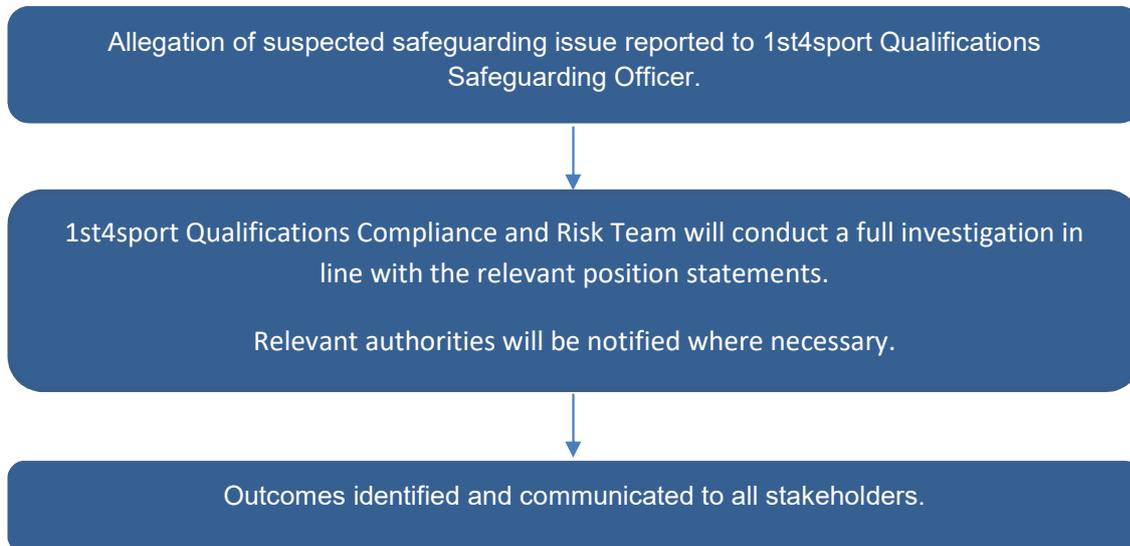
- Overlook or allow bullying, violations or any possible form of abuse to go unchallenged.
- Form emotional or physical relationships with children or vulnerable adults.
- Distress children or vulnerable adults by shouting at them or calling them insulting names.
- Be alone with a child or vulnerable adult.
- Use or allow children or vulnerable adults to use inappropriate/sexualised language.
- Invite a child or vulnerable adult to stay with them or share a room or sleeping accommodation.
- Allow or engage in, inappropriate touching of any kind.
- Hold a child or vulnerable adult in such a way that it causes pain.
- Engage in rough or physical contact that could be unwelcome or misinterpreted.
- Allow or engage in the touching of a child or vulnerable adult in a sexual way.

## 1st4sport Qualifications process for reporting suspected safeguarding concerns

If the safeguarding concern relates to recognised centre staff, learners or relevant third party the following process should be followed:



If the safeguarding concern relates to 1st4sport Qualifications staff or partner staff the following process should be followed:



### Corrective actions

Where poor practice is confirmed, children and vulnerable adults are immediately referred to the relevant authorities. The following corrective actions are provided as a summary only if a stakeholder has committed poor practice against a child or vulnerable adult.

Confirmed poor practice: corrective action	Confirmed abuse: required action
Temporary suspension Work only under supervision Undertake specific child or vulnerable adult safeguarding and best practice training.	Dismissal Criminal investigation

## Version control

Version number	Date	Comments
V1	January 2010	New Document
V2	May 2012	Document Review
V3	July 2014	Document Review
V4	November 2017	Full review of document contents
V5	July 2019	Review of Document. Minor amendments to wording