

## 4.14 Child Protection

### 1. Changes from last issue

### 2. Objective

Leaders and children may get to know each other quite well during the camps and leaders may be in a position to pick up on concerns about a child's welfare. Equally leaders must be careful to protect themselves against any possibility of accusation.

### 3. To protect the child:

- Be alert for any signs of possible abuse or neglect.
- Listen carefully to what the child has to say but do not ask probing or leading questions.
- Make written notes of any concerning conversation including the exact words used.
- Report your concerns to your line manager (the Duty Officer or CLO)
- Do not talk about it to anyone else and do not attempt to investigate further.

### 4. To protect employees:

- Maintain a professional relationship with the children.
- Limit physical contact. High 5's are fine, hugs aren't.
- If you need to touch a child eg for coaching purposes then let them know what you are going to do and why.
- If you are comforting an upset child try to limit physical contact or ensure that any physical contact is proportionate to the incident and witnessed by another adult.
- Do not let worries about physical contact stop you if a child requires emergency help.
- Try not to be left alone with a single child.

### 5. For more information

Please refer to Aberdeenshire Council child protection guidelines on Arcadia and training on ALDO