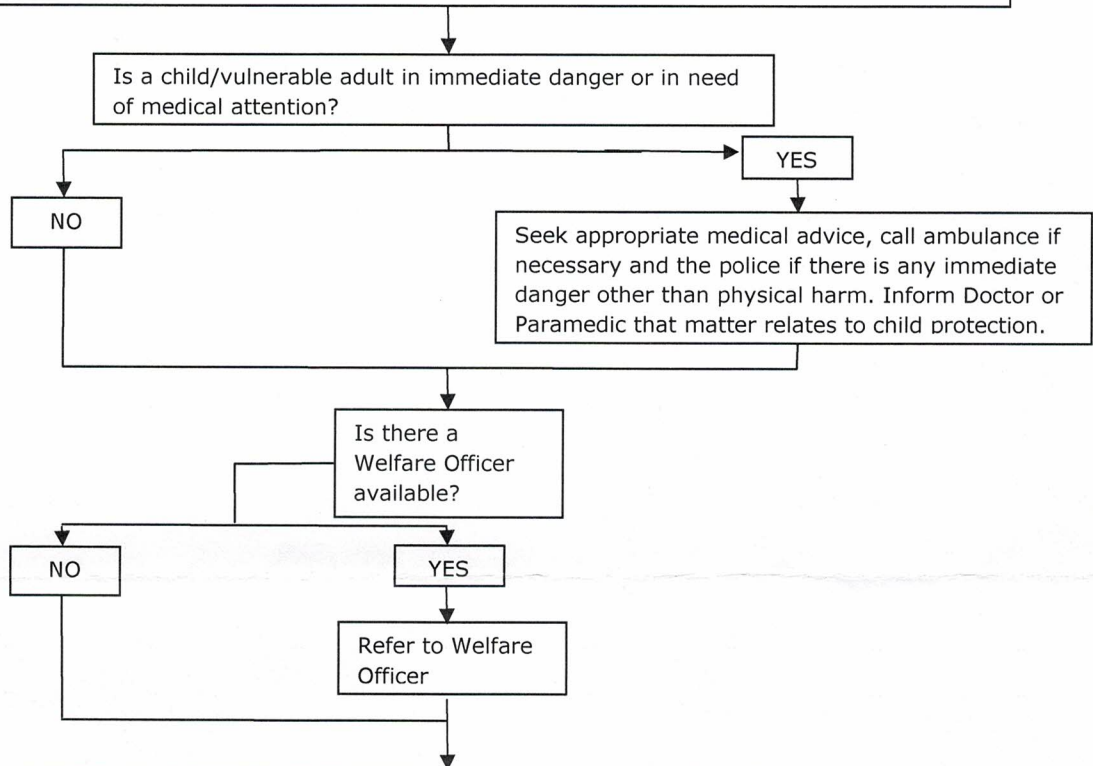


Guide to Responding to Disclosures/Abuse Situations

You witness, suspect or are told about possible abuse in an angling situation. (eg – bullying, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect. See section 4 of the Angling Trust Child Protection Policy for more information)

Indicators of abuse may include (but are not limited to) – unexplained/inconsistently explained/suspicious injuries; the young person describing what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her; unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g. becoming quiet/withdrawn or short tempered; inappropriate sexual awareness; a distrust of adults; difficulty making friends; variations in eating patterns or loss of weight no apparent reason; dirty or unkempt appearance.)



If a young person informs you directly that he/she, or another young person, is concerned about someone's behaviour towards them (this is termed disclosure), you should:

- React calmly so as not to frighten or deter the young person;
- Tell the young person that he/she is not to blame and that he/she was right to tell;
- Take what the person says seriously, recognising the difficulties inherent in interpreting what is said by a young person who has a speech disability and/or differences in language;
- Keep any questions to an absolute minimum, purely using them for clarification purposes, to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said;
- Reassure the young person but **DO NOT** make promises of confidentiality which might not be feasible in light of subsequent developments;

Record in writing exactly what has been said using the young person's words as soon as possible. Use the AT Incident Report Form (Template Four in the AT Child Protection and Procedures).

Refer as soon as practicable to the **Angling Trust Safeguarding Officer Richard Hadley on 07720 974 811**, who will speak to the Children's Social Care Services (Social Services) and/or Police, without delay. Keep a detailed record at each stage.

Above agencies will share information, notify appropriate organisations and individuals and conduct investigations.