

## SAFEGUARDING (CHILD PROTECTION) DESIGNATED WORKERS

The main burden of child protection within the SCC falls on those in direct contact with cadets – our Adult Volunteers. However Designated Workers are in place within Area Offices (and Sea Cadet Training Centres and Boating Stations) to ensure that guidance and advice is always available. All key staff within the MSSC have received specific training in child protection issues to ensure good practice and support is accessible.

Below is a reminder of the Designated Workers within the MSSC/SCC and their responsibilities:

### **Designated Workers:**

- Area Business & Management Directors (BMD)
- Area Officers (AO)
- Deputy Area Officers (DAO)
- Area Chairmen
- Commanding Officers – Sea Cadet Training Centres (including Offshore vessels)
- Officers in Charge – Area Boat Stations
- Director of Business Management (DBM), Admin & Personnel Officer (APO) and BMD (HQ) at MSSCHQ

### **Responsibilities:**

The Designated Worker has responsibility to:

- Raise awareness, disseminating and implementing safeguarding procedures within the organisation.
- Receive information from staff, volunteers or cadets about Child Protection concerns and maintain records.
- Provide advice and guidance on the management of incidents, allegations, complaints and disclosures.
- Monitor safeguarding procedures, record progress and disposal and feedback on the quality of safeguarding within the organisation.
- Know how to contact the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs)<sup>1</sup> (in England and Wales), located within Children's Services, and refer information regarding inappropriate behaviour of adults who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- Know how to contact and establish links with the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and the relevant departments within social services or police.
- Promote safeguarding across their Area and keep volunteers informed on good practise and new legislation and guidance through the Safeguarding (Child Protection) training they deliver.

**Remember** – the first point of contact for advice or guidance is the Designated Worker at Area – BMD, AO or DAO who will have received training and who will offer support on child protection issues. The point of contact at MSSCHQ will be APO, BMD (HQ) or DBM who has ultimate responsibility for the management of complaints allegations and investigations within the Corps

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<sup>1</sup> The Government's guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) introduced the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in England and Wales whose responsibility is to co-ordinate the investigation of all allegations made against people who work with children and young people, provide advice and guidance to voluntary organisations, to liaise with the LSCB, ISA, police, social care and other professional bodies and monitor the progress of cases to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent and with a thorough and fair process. It also introduced the duty of organisations to refer information regarding inappropriate behaviour of adults who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Information must be referred to LADOs should an allegation/complaint suggest that an adult has: behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child; possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child; or behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they are unsuitable to work with children