

Ulster Beekeepers Association

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

1 The Ulster Beekeepers Association (UBKA) provides educational seminars and training courses about honey bees and the craft of beekeeping.

2. These sessions may involve observing the behaviour of bees in observation hives or the inspection and handling of bees in hives based at Local Association Apiary sites or private apiaries owned by Local Association members who are undertaking work on behalf of the Ulster Beekeepers Association.

3. The UBKA aims to ensure that young people and vulnerable adults who participate in activities managed by the association will feel physically, emotionally and intellectually safe.

3.1 In Northern Ireland a child is defined as a young person who has not yet reached their 18th birthday

3.2 Vulnerable adults are people who are in need of community care services because of mental or physical disability, age or illness. They may be unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

4. The UBKA aims to comply with relevant legislation such as

- The Criminal Justice Act:2000

- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007

- The Protection of Freedoms Act2012

4.1 The policy and its accompanying guidelines will be regularly reviewed to ensure that UBKA continues to meet legislative requirements in regard to children and vulnerable adults

5. Health and Safety Procedures:

The full postal address and Grid references of the association site should be clearly displayed for emergencies.

Risk assessments for training sessions/seminars where live bees are present will be completed in advance.

Trainers and participants will be made aware of any specific risks identified and of the following general measures and procedures to be followed before sessions commence.

5.1 Protective bee suits, veils and gloves will be required to be worn by trainers and participants at sessions where bees are being handled.

5.2 Before handling bees, participants will be informed about the dangers of bee stings and the steps that should be taken to avoid/ counteract allergic reactions. As soon as the symptoms of an allergic reaction are evident, the emergency services will be contacted. Session leaders will have received guidance in the recognition of allergic symptoms.

5.3 Children must be accompanied by an adult who has the responsibility for his/her care e.g. parent/guardian or those officially acting 'in loco parentis' such as a teacher or designated carer.

5.4 Vulnerable adults must be accompanied by an adult carer. The carer will be responsible for the welfare and behaviour of the vulnerable adult(s) and will be made aware of that responsibility prior to the commencement of any session.

6. Trainers

UBKA aims to appoint individuals with the experience and skills to provide a safe and positive experience for the children and vulnerable adults attending courses and seminars. Specific requirements are as follows:

6.1 Trainers delivering courses will be required to have obtained an AccessNI Enhanced Check.

6.2 Trainers will preferably hold, or be working towards, an appropriate Federation Of Irish Beekeeping Associations (FIBKA) qualification or its equivalent.

7. Guidance:

Trainers working on behalf of UBKA will receive guidance in the following:

7.1 Raising their awareness of child /vulnerable people protection issues, to enable them to recognise abuse which might be occurring.

7.2 Disclosure and reporting procedures.

7.2 Procedures that they should take to maintain the safety of the young people and vulnerable adults who are participating in their sessions.

7.3 Assessing and reporting health and safety hazards in order to maintain the safety of the young people and vulnerable adults and others attending training sessions.

8. Responding to evidence or allegations of abuse:

If there is evidence to suggest that abuse by a person(s) working under the auspices of UBKA has taken place with a child or vulnerable adult participating in UBKA activities, or a complaint has been received from or on behalf of such persons, the protocol will be as follows:

8.1 The incident will be reported to the Police and the UBKA Chair.

8.2 The individual concerned will be suspended from working on behalf of UBKA and will not be re-instated until the evidence has been fully investigated and their conduct cleared.

9. Data Protection:

UBKA will not publish nor distribute photographs or videos of young people or vulnerable adults.

Child/Vulnerable Persons Protection Incident Report Form

Reported to:	Reported By:
Date:	Location:

Details:

Signature of Individual Reporting

Signature of Witness (if available)

Incident:

Signature of UBKA Chair:

Agency Report to & Date(if required)

Appendices

Guidelines for UBKA members\trainers undertaking work with children and vulnerable adults

Appropriate behaviour when working with Children and Vulnerable Adults

Duty of Care

- Activities should be planned in consultation with the school, college or host organisation.
- When supervising an activity, trainers must ensure that the activity, equipment and working environment is safe and appropriate for the group.

Openness

- Ensure that the relevant support workers, teachers or supervisors are present throughout training session.
- Do not share personal contact details with a young person or vulnerable adult.

Physical Contact

- Do not engage in unnecessary physical contact which could be open to misinterpretation, eg taking care that bees are brushed from bee suits by individuals themselves, carers, teachers or guardians
- If physical contact is absolutely necessary eg in the case of bees getting inside a bee suit, an explanation of the removal procedure should be given and permission obtained from the individual. Again, the carer, teacher or guardian must participate in the process of removing the bees.

Behaviour towards Young People and Vulnerable Adults:

- Positive behaviour should be praised and criticism always be constructive.

- While reference to male and female bees and queen mating may be necessary, take care not to make sexually suggestive comments.
- If you accidentally hurt, distress or offend a young person or vulnerable adult, notify the relevant person in authority or the school, college or host organisation, complete an incident form and notify the Chair of UBKA.
- Provide a positive role model with regards to friendliness, care, courtesy and valuing others.
- If a young person or vulnerable adult makes an approach towards you of a sexual or provocative nature during your work, clearly discourage this action without being insensitive. Report any instances of this nature to the relevant person in authority at the school, college or host organisation and to the UBKA Chair.