

## Safeguarding Adults Policy – Chimera Climbing

Reviewed: May 2026

Reviewed by: Marisa Gifford, Coaching Manager

### Commitment to Safeguarding Adults

Chimera Climbing is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and accepts its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of adults who attend our centres. We believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all adults, regardless of whether they are formally identified as being 'at risk', should be protected from abuse and harm.

### Key Safeguarding Personnel, Titles and Abbreviations:

DSL = Designated Safeguarding Lead

SO = Safeguarding Officer

DSO = Deputy Safeguarding Officer

Marisa Gifford – DSL

Danny Litchfield – DSO (Tunbridge Wells)

Nathan Wright – DSO (Canterbury)

Adam Cordell – DSO (Chatham)

Christopher Searle – Director & Safeguarding Officer

### Types of Abuse

Adults may face various forms of abuse, which can be physical, emotional, psychological, or financial. Bullying, often categorised under psychological/emotional abuse, can also manifest as physical abuse. At Chimera Climbing, we recognise the following types of abuse:

- Self-neglect
- Modern slavery
- Domestic abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional abuse
- Psychological abuse

**For more information on types of abuse, you can access the [Mountain Training England Safeguarding Children Young People and Adults Policy Appendices](#).**

## Reporting and Procedures

In the event of a safeguarding concern regarding an adult, Chimera Climbing will follow the same rigorous procedures established for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This ensures that all concerns are handled with the utmost care, urgency and confidentiality.

### Steps to Take if There is a Concern:

1. **Recognise:** Identify signs of potential abuse or neglect.
2. **Respond:** React calmly and supportively. Do not promise confidentiality but reassure the individual that the concern will be addressed.
3. **Report:** Immediately report the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a Deputy Safeguarding Officer (DSO). Reports can be made face-to-face or via our designated email address: [safeguarding@chimeraclimbing.com](mailto:safeguarding@chimeraclimbing.com).
4. **Record:** Document all details related to the concern using the Safeguarding Incident & Concern Report Form.
5. **Refer:** With the consent of the adult concerned, the DSL will refer the case to appropriate external agencies, such as social services or the police.

## MTE Course Delivery

For Mountain Training England (MTE) courses, Chimera Climbing will ensure that MTE is promptly informed if any safeguarding procedures are invoked. The information provided will include:

- A brief description of the nature of the concern.
- The actions taken in response.
- The outcome of the concern.

## Creating a Culture of Safety

Chimera Climbing fosters a culture of openness, respect, and accountability. Staff, volunteers, and participants are encouraged to speak out about concerns without fear of reprisal. We are dedicated to ongoing training and education to ensure that everyone involved in our community understands how to identify and respond to safeguarding issues.