

Children and Vulnerable Adults in SMC Huts

Guidance & Rules

The Club's huts are designed & equipped for use by responsible adults and every effort is made to ensure the safety of all occupants. However, when it is proposed that an individual child, vulnerable adult or a group of children or vulnerable adults are to be brought into this environment, it must be made absolutely clear to the party at the time of booking, that the additional duty of care required for the welfare of that individual or those individuals, lies with the visiting adult or adults in charge and not the SMC. In this context a "child" is a person under the age of 18, and a "vulnerable adult" means a person aged 18 and over who is/may be in need of community services due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability, or is/may be unable to take care of him/herself or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation.

The acceptance of bookings from individuals, other clubs or groups has always been and will remain at the discretion of the Custodian for each hut, as the accommodation and circumstances vary from hut to hut.

Where a school, youth group or group comprising one or more vulnerable adults requests the use of a hut, that group shall be required to book and pay for all bed spaces, excepting those beds reserved for SMC members' use at all times. In such cases, the visiting group will be advised that members may be present in the hut. Similarly, SMC members enquiring to use the hut should be advised of the visiting group's booking.

Where a Club member, a visiting club or other group wishes to include a child or children or one or more vulnerable adults in their party, this must be declared to the Custodian when making the booking, in order that SMC members can be advised of this, as above. The visiting party shall accept full responsibility for the behaviour, safety and well being of any such persons in their group and will make such decisions as are appropriate, regarding sleeping arrangements.

In all cases where children without their parents (or, in the case of vulnerable adults who have recognised carers, without those recognised carers) are to be taken into the Club's hut, it is the responsibility of the person or persons making the booking to ensure that they obtain the necessary parental permission and written agreement as to which individual adult(s) will be in "loco parentis".