



## **Guidance on communicating with children and young people**

### **Taken from Wavepower 2016-19**

When an adult in the organisations communicates with children or young members, they must do so in an appropriate and safe manner whether that is in person, by phone or text, online or via a social networking site.

Wavepower provides guidance on how to react to a child if they disclose concerns or abuse to you in person. However, you may find a member uses other forms of communication to do so, even if you have followed the ASA guidance and not shared your phone, e-mail address or social networking details with that person. Should that happen, we do not want you to stop that communication as it breaches our guidance, but you should advise the welfare officer of the contact immediately and follow the guidance in Wavepower as to how to deal with any disclosure or concern raised.

Generally speaking, if you do not share your contact information with members, they will not find your phone number, e-mail or social network site details. However, if this should happen and they are not disclosing concerns as outlined above, it is important you make them aware that you will not be communicating with them on this medium and inform the welfare officer immediately. The welfare officer will take action as required, ensuring contact by the member is not repeated.

There are exceptions to every rule and this is outlined in our guidance. However, all those in a position of responsibility in the organisation must remember that they have to ensure they are appropriate at all times with individuals under the age of 18 and maintain appropriate, professional relationships to safeguard the young people and themselves