

Safeguarding for Equestrians Course – Scenarios

Scenario 1

Jenny, a young coach (AGED 20), who was previously a member of the club, has been teaching the senior ride at rallies for the past few months.

On a break between sessions, you, an official from the club, overhear a group of boys chatting when one of the boys called Riley says that he is having close relations with Jenny. The boys are 16.

Riley later comes to talk to you and makes a disclosure regarding his relationship with Jenny.

Scenario 2

On a break between classes, Tom, the team coach, overhears a group of girls teasing Amy that she is going to get into trouble when she gets home because she hasn't ridden well. The girls are 16.

Amy later comes to talk to Tom and makes a disclosure that she doesn't want to go home because she's scared that her dad will punish her for not riding well. He's hit her before when she hasn't ridden well and been sent to bed without any dinner.

Scenario 3

Last weekend, we held our Junior Area Qualifier for Show-jumping where a number of teams had entered. As the Club Safeguarding Officer, you have received a concern from a parent whose child, Joanna, fell from her horse during her round. Her team mates have been sending negative comments to her on Snapchat.

Joanna's mum is worried as she has previously self-harmed and being part of the Show-jumping team has been a large part of her recovery. Your daughter, Chrissie, is on Joanna's team.

Scenario 4

Your daughter, who is 13, has gone along with a friend to a local riding centre. You're not particularly 'horsey'. The friend's parent dropped them off and you agreed to collect them.

You get to the centre early to watch the girls' ride. On arriving you are disturbed to see lots of children around the ponies in the yard but no sign of the girls. You begin to get very concerned.

Eventually several ponies and children come back to the yard. The girls happily tell you that another rider had fallen off and hurt themselves and didn't want to get back on. Sam, who is the ride leader and junior coach, had hugged her and rubbed her back. The ride had to walk slowly back with Sam whilst he led the injured girl's pony.

You are introduced to Sam, who turns out to also be the proprietor's teenage son. He is 17 and in sixth form at school.

Scenario 5

Anne has been volunteering at an RDA group for over 10 years. As well as being a trustee, she helps at sessions every week. One week, a rider called Ellie was being particularly difficult and at the end of the session, Anne was asked to take her out of the arena and back to the school bus.

A few days later, the group receives a formal complaint from the school head teacher saying the classroom assistant witnessed Anne slapping Ellie as she approached the bus.

Scenario 6

The club your children go to is hosting its annual summer camp.

You have been volunteering at the camp with other parents.

After a busy day of activities, you and the other supervisors settle down by the camp fire and open a few bottles of wine. The riders are in their tents sleeping.

Later that evening, one rider, Luke, goes to the bathroom and falls over banging his head. When you find him, he is bleeding and is dazed.