

Your business is a part of your community, you can have a positive impact by taking immediate action.

Please DO take action if you notice a child or young person in a vulnerable situation.

If you have concerns about a child or young person please call Customer First:

☎ 08456 023023

[weekdays 8.00am - 6.45pm]

☎ 01473 299669

[at any other time]

In an emergency you can always ☎ 999

Visit our website for more information on safeguarding children in Suffolk @ www.suffolkscb.org.uk

Need further copies of this leaflet?

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Protecting Children and the Licensing Act 2003

Information for Licensees
Issue: January 2009



Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility

Why do we need to protect children?

Under the Licensing Act 2003, children are allowed access to licensed premises, unless there is a clear reason for them not to. Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for the safeguarding of all children and is working with District and Borough Councils to produce guidance for licensees.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and it is important that we all work together to ensure that all children can safely enjoy leisure, cultural and entertainment activities in Suffolk.

Safeguarding not only includes physical or sexual harm, but psychological, emotional and moral harm. Where there are risks to children's well being, every step should be taken to ensure their safety.

What are the risks?

The risks to children in licensed premises will depend on the type of establishment and the age of the children. If underage teenagers are allowed to drink, they may become vulnerable due to their judgement being impaired through being intoxicated and they could lose their inhibitions. This could put them in danger of sexual predators, and mean that they become involved in anti social behaviour or put their own personal safety at risk.

Adults could pose a risk to their children if they become intoxicated and are unable to supervise their children. Children may also finish off adults drinks, if left unattended. Young children could be emotionally and/or physically harmed by witnessing aggressive or violent behaviour.

Adults working in your establishment may also pose a risk to children if they exploit their position by establishing relationships with children for inappropriate reasons.

What can Licensees do to reduce the risks?

- Ensure that all staff are vetted or hold a personal licence
- Ensure staff are aware of safeguarding issues
- Enforce admission rules and display clear signs
- Site gaming machine/s in sight of the bar
- Use clear signage to show family friendly areas
- Display signs about the laws relating to children and alcohol: "children" under the Licensing Act means persons aged less than 18 years old
- Operate a No ID, 'No Sale' policy and don't be afraid to question someone's age
- Ensure that children are not allowed in your establishment if there is entertainment of an adult or sexual nature ie striptease, lap dancing, gambling or the screening of adult films or TV programmes with offensive language or violent behaviour
- Use CCTV/security staff to monitor the vicinity in, and around, your establishment