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## Press Release

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

### **Redcar and Cleveland Council First in UK to Back National Safeguarding Standards for Children's Activities**

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council has become the first local authority in the UK to formally back the introduction of a National Safeguarding Framework for Extracurricular Activities.

The cross-party motion — proposed by Liberal Democrat Councillor Karen King and seconded by Labour Councillor Ceri Cawley — passed unanimously at the meeting of the Full Council on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025. This shows how important this is.

The motion called for:

- Mandatory enhanced DBS checks for all adults working with children or vulnerable adults in extracurricular settings
- A safeguarding lead in every club or group
- National minimum standards to ensure consistency across all regions and providers

The move follows increasing concern about the lack of legal safeguards in non-school settings such as dance schools, sports clubs, tutoring centres, and holiday programmes.

**Cllr Karen King said**, “Too many children are attending clubs where there’s no legal requirement for safeguarding. That’s unacceptable. We’ve seen the devastating consequences — from the tragic death of a young kick boxer, to the abuse uncovered in football and gymnastics. This isn’t about bureaucracy — it’s about basic protection. We’re proud to be leading the way.”

Cllr King extended her thanks to the British DanceSport Association, whose work in developing the Framework has provided the foundation for the motion. The BDSA’s research, case studies, and policy recommendations were central to the Council’s decision.

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**British DanceSport Association CEO Neil Harrison said,** “We’re grateful to Councillor King, Councillor Cawley, and Redcar and Cleveland Council for showing national leadership on this vital issue. Every child, in every setting, deserves the same safeguarding protection — and this motion brings us one step closer to making that a reality”

The Council will now write to the Secretary of State for Education, all local MPs, and key safeguarding partners, urging urgent legislative change. Cllr King will also seek face-to-face meetings with MPs Anna Turley and Luke Myer to request they progress this in parliament.

**- ENDS -**

**About Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council:**

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is the local authority for Redcar and Cleveland, a local government district with borough status in the ceremonial county of North Yorkshire, England. [www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

**About the British DanceSport Association:**

The British DanceSport Association (BDSA) is the Governing Body for dance sport in all its forms across the United Kingdom. Our mission is to unify the dance community, establish a fair and transparent regulatory framework, and ensure every dancer — from grassroots to elite — has access to the support, structure, and opportunities they need to thrive.

We are committed to bringing democracy to dance sport, breaking down barriers to progression, and building a future where all dancers can compete on a level playing field, free from prejudice or bias.

Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned professional, the BDSA champions "Inspiration Without Intimidation" — a welcoming, nurturing, and supportive space where passion is celebrated, talent is cultivated, and every style of dance sport has a place to shine.

All press enquiries: [info@BDSAssociation.com](mailto:info@BDSAssociation.com)

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