



UNDER 8s AT CUB SCOUT MEETINGS A BRIEFING NOTE FOR ACCs/AACs/DCs/CCs

BACKGROUND

This note provides clarification and briefing on an issue that has been the subject of some confusion in the recent past. This note supersedes all other information and advice which you may have heard or been given previously.

The issue is that the Children Act 1989 (the "Act") states that young people under the age of 8 years need to be supervised by registered childminders in certain situations. This raised the query as to whether the legislation applied to under 8s attending Scout meetings.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

For many years Headquarters has sought to obtain clarification on the legislation from the responsible authorities. It is following recent correspondence between a Beaver Scout Leader and the Department for Children, Schools and Families that the Association is now able to confirm that under 8s attending Scouting are not covered by Section 71 of the Children Act 1989.

Scouting is by definition not considered "child care" and this means that the specific requirements of Section 71 of the Act do not apply to Scouting.

GUIDANCE

In light of this information it is now possible to amend Policy, Organisation and Rules to allow young people aged 7½ years to join Cub Scouts.

Beaver Scout activities should continue to be run in accordance with the official Section Programme and in line with the rules outlined in Policy, Organisation and Rules.

This briefing note does not affect the rules for Cub Scouts in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

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