

Leicestershire Brass Band Association

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Definitions

A child in this policy is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

A Vulnerable Adult is defined in accordance with The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) Order 2002 as a person aged 18 or over who has a condition of the following type:

- (i) A substantial learning or physical disability;
- (ii) A physical or mental illness or mental disorder, chronic or otherwise, including any addiction to alcohol or drugs; or
- (iii) A significant reduction in physical or mental capacity.

Safeguarding

There is no legal definition of safeguarding. However, in this policy, any references to safeguarding are in keeping with the Government report in 2006, Making Safeguarding Everyone's Business, in which there was a shift in emphasis from protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm, to preventing abuse and neglect in the first instance.

Therefore, safeguarding is defined here as both safeguarding and promoting welfare together, through:

- (i) Protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from maltreatment
- (ii) Preventing impairment of children, young people and vulnerable adults' health and/or development; and
- (iii) Ensuring that children and young people are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care to enable them to have optimum life chances such that they enter adulthood successfully.

Responsible Officer

The Honorary Secretary is the Responsible Officer, in their absence the Chairman should be contacted. They can be contacted through Contest Control.

Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct applies to all volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

- Avoid unnecessary physical contact.
- Avoid taking a young person alone in a vehicle on journeys, however short.
- If you find you are in a situation where you are alone with a child, young person or vulnerable adult, wherever practical make sure that others can clearly observe you.
- Avoid close personal relationships with a child, young person or vulnerable adult in relation to whom they are in a position of trust.
- Never make suggestive or inappropriate remarks to or about a child, young person or vulnerable adult even in fun, as this could be misinterpreted.
- If a child, young person or vulnerable adult accuses a volunteer of abuse or inappropriate behavior this should be reported immediately to the Honorary Secretary or Chairman.

- The duty to report applies equally to complaints or accusations of historic, and not just recent, abuse/inappropriate behavior.
- Recipients of any complaint or accusation from a child, young person or vulnerable adult, must listen without making or implying any judgement as to the trust of the complaint or accusation.
- If a child, young person or vulnerable adult makes a complaint, or if there are other reasons for suspecting abuse, this should be reported immediately to the designated staff member responsible for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Staff and volunteers should remember that those who abuse children, young people and vulnerable adults can be of any age (even other children and vulnerable adults), gender, ethnic background or class, and it is important not to allow personal preconceptions about people to prevent appropriate action taking place.
- Good practice includes valuing and respecting children, young people and vulnerable adults as individuals, and the adult modelling of appropriate conduct, which would exclude bullying, aggressive behavior and discrimination in any form.

Those dealing with any allegations of abuse or misconduct should adhere to the principles set out in the policy.

Any information received should be acted upon sensitively, effectively and efficiently.

Wherever possible, those making allegations should be given information about the outcome.

Reporting Concerns

Concerns should be reported immediately to the Responsible Officer.

Suspicious should not be discussed with anyone other than those named on this document unless specifically requested by the child, young person or vulnerable adult involved.

All reports, including electronic reports, should be kept in a locked or secure place. Reports should be kept to a minimum of 5 years.

The Responsible Officer will contact the local Social Services or Police as relevant in cases of sexual or physical abuse, injury or neglect. In other circumstances, they may liaise with the parent or responsible adult.

If the concern relates to a member of staff or volunteer, they may be suspended whilst the matter is investigated as a non-judgmental act in order to protect themselves and the vulnerable person.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

31st July 2019