

Beeston Voices Youth Choir - Safeguarding Policy (March 2022)

Policy Statement

- 1.1** Beeston Voices Youth Choir (BVYC) acknowledges it has a responsibility for the safety of all children and young people involved in all of its activity and wants to provide a safe and secure environment in which children and young people flourish and feel comfortable. It also recognises that good safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures are of benefit to everyone involved with BVYC's work. BVYC believes that it is always unacceptable for a child to experience abuse of any kind and accepts its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all children, by committing to practices that protect them.
- 1.2** The following principles underpin BVYC's approach to safeguarding and child protection.
- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount
 - All children, regardless of age, disability, sex, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
 - Working in partnership with children, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
- 1.3** A child is defined in law as a person up to the age of eighteen years. Therefore the term 'child' is used throughout this policy and procedure and this includes young people.
- 1.4** For the purpose of this policy, it applies to volunteers in any capacity.

2. Purpose of Policy and Procedure

- 2.1** The purpose of this policy and the accompanying procedural instructions is to ensure that all volunteers:
- Are clear about how to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns about children
 - Have a clear understanding of the principles and practice involved in the safeguarding and protection of children
 - Understand the importance of prevention in responding proactively and efficiently to all concerns.
- 2.2** The procedural instructions which accompany this policy will provide information for children participating in BVYC events on the responsibilities of, and approach taken by, BVYC in the protection of children.
- 2.3** The policy will ensure that participating groups, young people and volunteers understand that if abuse is disclosed, the information may not remain confidential and that BVYC will report it to the appropriate person.

3. Context

3.1 It is BVYC`s policy that:

- All volunteers working on behalf of BVYC accept that the welfare of children who come into contact with BVYC in connection with its tasks and functions is paramount, and that they will report any concerns about a child or somebody else`s behaviour using the procedures laid out in the accompanying procedural instruction.
- Parent`s, carers and children will be made aware of this policy and accompanying procedural instruction.
- There is a Safeguarding Lead (Becky Howes) with overall responsibility. This individual or another within the leadership team (Deputy Safeguarding Lead – Cameron Wedgeworth) is present at every event within BVYC and will take action following any expression of concern.
- The lines of responsibility in respect of child protection are clear.
- All BVYC volunteers are issued with a copy of this policy and required to sign it to say they understand and will adhere to the responsibilities within it.
- Information relating to any allegation or disclosure is brought to the attention of the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible. The information will be clearly recorded and acted upon at the earliest opportunity. The procedure for recording the information is contained within the accompanying procedural instructions.
- Legislation states that the `welfare of the child is paramount`. This means that considerations of confidentiality which might apply to other situations should not be allowed to over-ride the right of children to be protected from harm. However, every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned when an allegation has been made and is being investigated.
- A culture of mutual respect between children and those who represent BVYC in all its activities will be encouraged, with adults modelling good practice in this context
- All volunteers within BVYC will be appropriately vetted.
- All children and young people will be issued with a document entitled *“BVYC Choir Members – what we expect from our Children and Young People”* which will outline to members and their parents/carers the standards expected by all choir members.

4. Adoption and review

4.1 The Safeguarding Policy, together with documentation referred to in this policy will be annual reviewed and updated unless there is a change of legislation or guidance, or an incident that warrants it being reviewed sooner.

4.2 A copy of documentation referred to in this Policy is available upon request.