

Musical Connections Adult and Child Safeguarding Policy

The core beneficiaries of Musical Connections' work are vulnerable adults at risk of social isolation. As part of our efforts to relieve social isolation, we run an intergenerational programme of projects and events, some of which involve working with children and young people under the age of 18. In addition, although rare, we may find ourselves in contact with the children/grandchildren of people who get involved with our project. As a consequence, our Safeguarding policy relates to both adults and children.

1. Safeguarding Adults

The Care Act 2014 placed safeguarding adults on a statutory footing with new duties and responsibilities. Each local authority is required to have a set of guidance and procedures which will demonstrate how they will respond to allegations of abuse and neglect. It is a multi-agency policy which sets out the framework for how all agencies will work together and the response they will make.

Safeguarding adults is more than a set of guidance or procedures; it is part of what we all do in our everyday work and practice in our communities to prevent abuse and promote the well-being of people with care and support needs. Safeguarding works to support people in how they choose to live their lives and enables them to make their own decisions about their own welfare. In the event that the person lacks the mental capacity to make these decisions, then the decisions must be made in their best interests with due regard to their wishes, feelings, beliefs and values in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The definition of an 'adult at risk' is any person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental health issues, learning or physical disability, sensory impairment, age or illness and who is, or may be, unable to take care of him/herself or unable to protect him/herself against serious harm or exploitation. This definition applies to the majority of the people with whom Musical Connections works.

Aims of safeguarding adults

The aims of safeguarding adults are to:

- Stop abuse or neglect where ever possible
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned

- Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect
- Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and how to raise a concern about the safety and wellbeing of an adult
- Address what caused the abuse or neglect

2. Safeguarding Children

Musical Connections believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

Specifically, we seek to protect:

- children and young people who take part in the intergenerational programme delivered by Musical Connections
- the children/grandchildren of adults who get involved with our project

In doing so, we recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, parents and their teachers is essential in promoting their welfare

Our approach is informed by laws and guidance that seek to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Nation's Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- General Data Protection Regulation 2018
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

3. Musical Connections and Safeguarding

In order to ensure that Musical Connections adheres to local and national policy and the aims of safeguarding adults and children, the following requirements are in place:

- That all musicians and volunteers involved in the project are aware of the need to be vigilant in identifying and responding to issues of abuse
- That all establishments/centres where the sessions take place have their own safeguarding policies in place. i.e. schools, sheltered accommodation, community venues, residential and nursing homes.
- That all staff involved with the sessions have an understanding of safeguarding adults and children and the responsibility this gives them
- That all volunteers who are part of the project receive information about safeguarding adults and children, and what they need to do if they encounter the possibility of abuse or neglect
- That all project personnel having direct contact with vulnerable adults and children have an up to date DBS in place
- That all transport providers involved in assisting with adults and children:
 - have a knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and the responsibility this places upon them
 - provide us with a copy of their safeguarding policy
- All safeguarding concerns should follow the reporting procedures detailed at 3.1.3 below

3.1 Specific Procedures intended to support our Safeguarding Policy

3.1.1 RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

All musicians currently working on our project are self-employed, but have a longstanding association with Musical Connections, and have been trained and supervised by our Project Director. All staff and volunteers currently working on the project have up-to-date DBS checks in place

In the case of new staff and volunteers, the following actions are required:

- Completion of an application form

- Volunteers undertake an interview with our Volunteer Development Officer and, in some instances, with a trustee
- Musicians/artists undertake an interview with the Project Director and, in some cases, with a trustee
- Request for 2 references, one professional, one personal
- DBS checks

3.1.2 TRAINING AND INDUCTION

Musical Connections is currently supported by the local authority in accessing appropriate safeguarding training. Our Volunteer Officer shares learning from this training with all volunteers.

3.1.3 REPORTING PROCEDURES

Where abuse is suspected, the following actions are required:

- Listen without investigating allegations or asking probing questions (you could jeopardise a court case)
- Do not promise complete confidentiality
- Record your concerns in writing - brief, factual and relevant. Do not offer opinions unless you make it very clear that it is your own personal opinion. Record alleged abuse, dates and times, who was involved, any observed injuries, appearance of the victim and what they have said in their own words

In the case of emergency:

- If a person is in immediate danger call 999 and, if they are with you and fear to go home, take to the nearest police station. If the person is not in immediate danger, call 101

If the situation is not an emergency:

- Report the incident as soon as possible, sending your written record of your concerns, to your line manager and MC's safeguarding officer (contact details below)
- If possible, fill in a CYC report form - appended to this policy. See details of how to find one below
- The Safeguarding Officer, or Project Director in their absence, then reports our cause for concern by passing on the completed form (they should complete it if the person

reporting hasn't) and calling Adult Social Care using the telephone numbers shown below

- Any wider safeguarding concerns about the operations of Musical Connections should be raised directly with the Chair of Trustees, who is also our Safeguarding Officer

3.1.4 USEFUL CONTACTS

- In case of emergency contact the police on 999 (or 101 if the danger is not immediate)
- Musical Connections Safeguarding Officer, Valerie Sutton, Chair of Trustees, on 01904 373011
- Local authority contacts - Adult social care 01904 555111 or 01609 534527 (out of hours) or find a report form at www.york.gov.uk/info/20133/safeguarding_adults/1401/report_abuse_safeguarding_adults/1

| DATE POLICY ADOPTED | WHEN DUE FOR REVIEW | SIGNATURE OF CHAIR OF TRUSTEES OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE |
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3.1.5 LIST OF RELATED DOCUMENTS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Volunteering
2. Volunteer Induction checklist
3. Contractor Recruitment Policy
4. Contractor Induction Checklist
5. Musical Connections Code of Conduct
6. Health and Safety Policy