

# Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Scunthorpe and District Choral Society (SDCS)
<b>Date Policy Agreed</b>	
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	
<b>Name and telephone number of Designated Safeguarding Person</b>	Jacqui Brewster 07546170066
<b>Name and telephone number of Deputy Safeguarding Person</b>	Alex Godfrey 07770 581883

All SDCS events involving performers aged 18 or under will be delivered in conjunction with either a school, college or youth organisation who will take the lead safeguarding role

- SDCS will check that all chaperones allocated to supervise child performers have as a minimum; Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) vetting in line with local Children's MARS for North Lincolnshire procedures and that the required number of licensed chaperones are appointed.

The values held by this organisation are safety, open access, equality and fairness. SDCS recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse. SDCS takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people. We will:

- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse and neglect
- Have a system for both reporting and dealing with concerns about possible abuse and neglect

Safeguarding incorporates protecting children from harm and maltreatment, promoting welfare and optimizing life chances for all children. All organisations that work with children and provide services for children now share the responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. Our organisation believes that all children while in our care should be safe and prevented from harm.

In order to achieve this, the SDCS committee will put in place systems for safeguarding all those involved with their organisation.

- The committee appoints a designated person to deal with safeguarding issues and concerns

- If anyone has concerns about a child these should be dealt with by the designated person according to procedures and guidance within this policy. Should the designation person be unavailable then concerns can be raised with the deputy designated person.
- All choir events and activities are risk assessed to ensure potential H&S issues are considered in terms of access, inclusion and reasonable adjustments are put in place for our disabled members.
- Policies and procedures will be regularly monitored by the committee, which has overall responsibility for safeguarding.

## THE POLICY

SDCS recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and/or neglect. Accordingly SDCS has adopted the following policy guidelines. The policy sets out agreed guidelines for responding to allegations of abuse/neglect. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with North Lincolnshire Multi Agency Resilience & Safeguarding (MARS) Board Policies and Procedures. They will be subject to periodic review by the committee.

The policy applies to all committee officers, members and volunteers who act on behalf of SDCS. Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person in respect of child protection or their deputy of concerns relating to safeguarding children.

Once a child has reported inappropriate behaviour or abuse by an adult, it has to be acted upon even if the child does not give consent or would prefer it to remain in confidence with no action taken.

The designated person should decide if the concerns should be communicated to North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the police. However North Lincolnshire Children's Services can be contacted directly if necessary.

## Definitions of Abuse (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)

A concern should be raised if any of the following circumstances have or are happening to a child:

<b>Physical abuse</b>	A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocation or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child
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<b>Emotional abuse</b>	The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone
<b>Sexual abuse</b>	Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children
<b>Child sexual exploitation</b>	Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victims needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
<b>Child criminal exploitation</b>	As set out in the Serious Violence Strategy, published by the Home Office, where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

<b>Neglect</b>	<p>The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's mental and physical health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);</li> <li>• protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;</li> <li>• ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or</li> <li>• ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment</li> </ul> <p>It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.</p>
<b>Domestic abuse including controlling or coercive behaviour</b>	<p>Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. Domestic abuse is not limited to physical acts of violence or threatening behaviour, and can include emotional, psychological, controlling or coercive behaviour, sexual and/or economic abuse. Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and adolescent to parent violence. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. Domestic abuse has a significant impact on children and young people. Children may experience domestic abuse directly, as victims in their own right, or indirectly due to the impact the abuse has on others such as the non-abusive parent. Also known as coercive control, the use of control and coercion in relationships is a form of domestic abuse and, since December 2015, a criminal offence. It is described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour; and</li> <li>• Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim</li> </ul> <p>Coercive control is a form of abuse that involves multiple behaviours and tactics which reinforce each other and are used to isolate, manipulate and regulate the victim. This pattern of abuse creates high levels of anxiety and fear. This has a significant impact on children and young people, both directly, as victims in their own right, and indirectly due to the impact the abuse has on the non-abusive parent. Children may also be forced to participate in controlling or coercive behaviour towards the parent who is being abused.</p>

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

It is vital that anyone who suspects a child at risk is being abused or neglected discusses the situation immediately with the designated safeguarding person Jacqui Brewster (07546170066) or deputy designated safeguarding person Alex Godfrey (07770 581883) at the event/session.

If it is an emergency, and the designated person(s) cannot be contacted, then North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the police should be contacted at the numbers given at the end of this policy

For further information, the [One Family Approach - Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire](#) document and [Children's MARS Policy and Procedures for Assessing Need and Providing Help](#)

- If the suspicions relate to the designated person, then North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the Police should be contacted.
- Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone, other than those named above.
- It is the right of any individual to make direct referrals to North Lincolnshire Children's Services. However this policy should be followed where possible.

## RECORDING

1. Write down exactly what the child has said in their own words. Write down the conversation held, where it was held, when and what was happening beforehand. Alternatively write down what you have observed details of any witnesses, location, and your specific concern if you believe that a child has been abused or neglected. Record dates and times of the events and when the record was made. Keep all notes secure.
2. Report your discussion as soon as possible to the designated person.
3. Allegations against any member of SDCS will be investigated following local procedures. For further information see the Children's MARS Managing Allegations procedures

## MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

After a safeguarding referral has been made all written records relating to child welfare concerns or concerns about possible risk posed by an adult (whether paid or voluntary) are to be confidentially retained by the Safeguarding Lead and stored in a secure locked cabinet. No information is to be stored electronically.

- For concerns raised and acted upon, a record should be kept until the child is 25 years old.
- For concerns not acted upon, a record should be kept for 6 years after the child has ceased association with the organisation.

- For concerns regarding a SCDS member (even if they are no longer associated with the organisation) they should be kept on their personal file until retirement age 67 years old or for 10 years whichever is longer.
- Destruction of records - All confidential waste is to be disposed of by shredding on site or off site by an approved company

## **Whistle Blowing**

If any member of SDCS witnesses, suspects or is informed of a witnessed or suspected case of abuse they should immediately report it to the named safeguarding officer; If the named person is not available, or is involved in or connected to, the abuse, it should be reported to the Chairman for the event / activity . If an individual wishes to report an incident of abuse against themselves they should report it to the named safeguarding officer or an individual they trust.

We are committed to all individuals having the ability to raise a genuine concern in good faith without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

DESIGNATED CHILD SAFEGUARDING PERSON FOR YOUR ORGANISATION : **Jacqui Brewster 07546170066**

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CHILDREN SERVICES, CHURCH SQUARE HOUSE, CHURCH SQUARE, SCUNTHORPE DN15 6XQ 01724 296500 OR 01724 296555 [EXTENDED HOURS]

**POLICE NON EMERGENCY 101**

**POLICE EMERGENCY 999**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER, INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE  
01724 298293**