

Kearsley Youth Brass Band

Child Protection Policy of Kearsley Youth Brass Band

Whilst the Band is predominately for children, there are adults who are learning to play instruments within the band. All adults are expected to;

- Adhere to the Child Protection Policy
- Report any concerns to the designated safeguarding officer.
- Encourage any child with concerns to speak to the officer.

Policy Statement

The Committee of Kearsley Youth Brass Band believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

We recognise that:

The welfare of the child/young person is paramount. 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. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive Kearsley Youth Band Services, including the children of adult members or users.
- To provide the Committee and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they should suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.
- This policy applies to all adults, committee members, volunteers, including parents/carers who stay during rehearsals when Kearsley Youth Band is playing and when attending concerts.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for volunteers.
- Recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made, and sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing effective guidance for volunteers through supervision and guidance, support and training.
- We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.



Policy and Procedures

1.0 Aims and Objectives:

This policy ensures that all our volunteers (and any future volunteers and band members) are clear about the action necessary with regard to a child protection issue. Its aims are:

- To raise the awareness of all volunteers and identify responsibility in reporting possible causes of abuse.
- To ensure effective communication between all volunteers when dealing with child protection issues.
- To establish the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.
- To identify a named committee member to take responsibility for child protection issues.

2.0 Definitions of an Abuse:

It is important that all our volunteers are aware of the different types of abuse and are able to recognise the signs. These are important to know as any action taken by the Police, Social Services, etc. will be based on the four broad definitions of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual and neglect

Physical Abuse: may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Signs to look for:

- Unexplained bruising, marks or injuries
- Bruises, which reflect hand marks or fingertips
- Cigarette burns
- Bite marks
- Broken bones
- Scalds
- Running away

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate physical abuse may include:

- Fear of parents being approached for an explanation
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Reluctance to get changed, for example wearing long sleeves in hot weather
- Depression
- Withdrawn behaviour

Emotional Abuse: is the emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe or persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve someone telling children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature inappropriate expectations being



imposed on children. Children may frequently feel frightened or in danger. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Signs to look out for:

- A failure to thrive and grow
- Sudden speech disorders
- Developmental delay, either in terms of physical or emotional progress

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate emotional abuse may include:

- Neurotic behaviour, e.g. hair twisting, rocking
- Being unable to play
- Fear of making mistakes
- Self-harm

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether the child is aware of what is happening or not. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts (e.g. rape etc.). They may involve non-contact activities, such as involving children looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Signs to look for:

- Pain or itching in the genital/anal areas
- Bruising or bleeding near genital/anal areas
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Vaginal discharge or infection
- Stomach pains
- Pregnancy

Changes in behaviour, which can also include sexual abuse may include:

- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- Sexual knowledge, which is beyond their age or development level
- Sexual drawings or language
- Self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- Substance or drug abuse
- Suddenly having unexplained sources of money
- Not being allowed to have friends (particularly in adolescence)
- Acting in sexually explicit way towards adults
- Eating problems, such as anorexia or overeating
- Having nightmares
- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour



Neglect: is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Signs to look out for:

- Running away
- Constant hunger, loss of weight including stealing food from other children
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inappropriate dress for the conditions
- Untreated medical problems

3.0 Procedures

If a child should make a disclosure to a volunteer within our group or should a volunteer recognise/identify possible signs of abuse, then the following actions should apply:

If a child talks to you about abuse or neglect:

Tell the child they are not to blame and that it was right to tell.

Reassure the child but do not make any promises of confidentiality, which may not be feasible in the light of subsequent developments. Explain early on that the information will need to be shared and what you will do next (as simply as possible).

Do not show disgust or anger.

Do not ask direct questions - who, what, where, when.

Do not stop the free recall of significant events.

Do not ask the child to repeat their account to anyone else.

Do not put word into the child's mouth by suggesting what has happened and by whom.

Take what the child says seriously, recognising the difficulties in interpreting what a child who has speech or language difficulties says.

Keep calm and even if you find what they are saying difficult or painful, keep listening.

Make a full record of what has been said, heard and/or seen as soon as possible using the child's own words. Record the facts clearly, including details of the child, date, time, parties involved, action taken and any referrals made to statutory agencies.

Do not contact or confront the individual who is alleged to be responsible. Inform the Named Child Protection Officer within the group of this incident. They will report any concerns to the relevant agency.



The Designated Safeguarding Officer for Kearsley Youth Brass Band is: Catherine Roe
Contact Details:
Email - cfaroe@aol.com

If you recognise any possible signs of abuse which concerns you:

- Do not challenge the child.
- Record your concerns.
- Inform the named child protection person within your group of your concern.
- It is very important to record incidents as this information may be needed at a later stage during the assessment of a child or in court if criminal proceedings are brought against someone.

4.0 Managing allegations against a person in a position of trust

What to do in the case of an allegation or incident against a committee member, volunteer, or adult band member.

“The First Five minutes”

1. The Designated Safeguarding Officer(s) named above receives a complaint.
2. Make sure children are safeguarded (e.g. a child with an injury)
3. At this stage **do not** question the victim or alleged perpetrator or witnesses.
4. The Safeguarding Officer(s) will discuss with LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) on **337478** and agree a course of action
5. There are three possible courses of action
 - Action by Kearsley Youth Brass Band Managers
 - No further action
 - Strategy Meeting

Useful contacts if you are worried about a child

Referral and Assessment team South (covers Burnden, Daubhill, Farnworth, Harper Green, Kearsley, Little Lever) Tel: 01204 337729

Emergency out of hours team 01204 337777

This Policy is current at the date below and will be reviewed annually in line with the date for the **AGM**

Safeguarding Officer	Catherine Roe	
Chairman	Stephen Tonge	
Policy Dated		
Policy Review Date		

