

WCS Safeguarding Policy.

This Safeguarding Policy applies to Wimborne Choral Society (WCS) employees, all choir members (including trustees), volunteers and all others invited to perform or work with WCS.

WCS is committed to making its best efforts to ensure that the members are made aware of our Safeguarding Policy and that it is understood by all. WCS will ensure that there is a designated member of the organisation to whom any concerns may be reported.

This policy recognises vulnerable people as the following. Children up to the age of 16 and young people aged 16-18. Adults aged over 18 defined as vulnerable by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. This might include adults with a learning or physical disability, a physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs, or reduced physical or mental capacity. Hereafter, 'vulnerable people' will refer to all the above.

A vulnerable person is defined as someone who has care and support needs, and who is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect because of these needs, or is unable to protect himself or herself against the risk of abuse or neglect.

Vulnerable people all have the rights to the same protection, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity. WCS is committed to anti-discriminatory practice and explicitly recognises the additional needs of vulnerable people from minority ethnic groups and the disabled and the barriers they may face, especially around communication.

Abuse - WCS endeavours by the implementation of this Safeguarding Policy to protect and minimise the risks of abuse of vulnerable people from a range of ways by which others may cause them harm. Abuse can happen anywhere. It can happen at home, at school, in a residential or nursing home, in a hospital, at work or in the street. There are four main categories of abuse namely **physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect.**

WCS recognises that it is not the role of our organisation to decide whether a vulnerable person has been abused or not. This is the role of the Social Services department which has the legal responsibility, or of the Police. However, if abuse of any kind is suspected, it should be reported to the appropriate authority.

WCS is aware that vulnerable persons may attend their concerts as members of the audience, or attend social functions hosted by WCS. It is the responsibility of the carer to ensure adequate supervision. If a carer is not personally attending an event this policy requires them to be satisfied that the vulnerable person will be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult always acting on their behalf.

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