



### Safeguarding Commitment

Wessex Concert Orchestra (WCO) believes that a child, young person or adult at risk should never experience abuse of any kind. We recognise that we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk. We are committed to safeguarding the well-being of all children, young people and adults at risk we come into contact with and to protecting them from harm.

### About this Policy

- This policy applies to; all members, staff (whether employees or freelancers), volunteers and anyone working on behalf of WCO or taking part in WCO activities.
- The purpose of this policy is to provide members, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of all vulnerable people.
- This policy recognises vulnerable people as:
  - Children up to the age of 16 or young people aged 16-18.
  - Adults aged over 18 at risk including those defined as vulnerable by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. This might include adults with learning or physical disability, physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs, or reduced physical or mental capacity. This policy also recognises risk is determined by the activity an adult is taking part in and not solely on the personal characteristics or circumstances of the adult, as such any adult can be at risk, and the risk can be temporary.
- This policy aims to:
  - Protect children, young people and adults at risk who are; members of, receive services from, or volunteer for, WCO.
  - Ensure members, staff and volunteers working with children, young people and adults at risk are carefully recruited and understand and accept responsibility for the safeguarding of those vulnerable individuals they are interacting with.
  - Ensure that safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk is a primary consideration when WCO undertakes any activity, event or project.

**How WCO might work with vulnerable people:** membership is open to those over 16 years of age, subject to the Trustees being confident appropriate measures are in place, and our level of contact with vulnerable people is low. We run regular rehearsals for members and put on concerts for the general public. As such our involvement with vulnerable people might include, but is not limited to:

- Members of the group who attend rehearsals and concerts.
- Relatives and friends of members who attend rehearsals and concerts in a volunteering capacity.
- Audience members at public concerts.

**Named safeguarding person:** Elizabeth Fleming has responsibility for safeguarding issues. All queries and concerns relating to safeguarding should be referred to Elizabeth Fleming in the first instance.

Any projects, events or other activities that will involve vulnerable people must be planned with the involvement of Elizabeth Fleming and in line with established procedures and ground rules (see below).



### **Recruitment Practices around Safeguarding**

Due to the low expected level of contact with vulnerable people WCO do not plan to request DBS checks.

### **Ground Rules and Ways for Working Regarding Safeguarding of Vulnerable People**

**When** WCO organises an activity or event where they will be responsible for vulnerable people they will ensure:

- Planning is carried out in line with this policy and procedures.
- There is a main contact for safeguarding on the day.
- The main contact has access to emergency contact details and other relevant details, such as information about picking up arrangements for vulnerable people.
- That if vulnerable people of different gender will be taking part in activities adults of different gender will be in attendance too.
- A vulnerable person is not left alone with an adult.
- Two adults should be the last to leave a venue once the activity has finished and will be responsible for ensuring vulnerable people get home safely.

**Working with parents/guardians:** If a vulnerable person wishes to take part in WCO activities, such as rehearsals or concerts not as audience, written permission (email is fine) should be obtained from parents/guardians where appropriate, and before the activity takes place. Written permission should include: emergency contact details of any relevant pick-up arrangements, including permission for another adult to pick up the vulnerable person after the activity has finished.

### **Procedures for Raising Safeguarding Concerns and Incidents of Abuse**

- If any member, staff or volunteer in WCO 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 WCO Orchestra Manager or other member of the Trustees.
- 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.

### **Procedures for Dealing with Concerns and Incidents of Abuse**

The Named person (or person reported in their absence) will first make a decision based on the immediacy of the concern and the following two factors:

1. If the vulnerable person is in immediate danger or needs emergency medical attention: call the police and/or ambulance service.
2. If the person at the centre of the allegation is working with vulnerable persons at the current time: remove them, in a sensitive manner, from direct contact with vulnerable people and follow the procedures below.



If none of the above applies the named person will:

- Make a note of the concerns reported to them.
- Speak with committee members to decide how to handle the reported abuse. Excluding any committee members who were involved in the incident.
- Escalate the report by either:
  - Raising concerns with the police: for serious or possible criminal offences.
  - Requesting an assessment by the local authority social care department about whether a vulnerable person is in need of protection.
  - An internal investigation: for less serious incidents where internal mediation will be successful.
- Where cases are escalated the committee will cooperate with the police or local authority in dealing with the reported incident.
- Where an internal investigation takes place the committee will:
  - Inform all parties involved of the reported abuse as soon as possible.
  - Inform the family/guardians of the person reported as being/ been abused of the incident.
  - Arrange separate meetings with both parties within 10 days of the reported incident. A joint meeting may be arranged if appropriate.
    - Both parties should be given the chance to bring a friend or representative to the meeting.
    - Meetings will be attended by the named safeguarding officer and at least one other committee member.
    - All parties will also be invited to submit a written statement in advance of the meeting.
  - Once meetings have taken place the committee will decide on next steps and communicate them to all parties in writing within 5 days. They will be either:
    - Escalate the incident to the relevant authority.
    - Further investigation: with established procedures and timelines to work towards a resolution.
    - A decision or resolution.

### Resolution and Disciplinary Action

- If abuse is found to have taken place any final resolution or decision will be taken in the best interest of the person who has suffered the abuse and the best interests of the WCO.
- Any disciplinary action will be taken in line with the WCO constitution.

### Version History

Date	Details
September 2019	Adopted Making Music August 2019 template.
April 2023	Routine review against current Making Music template (August 2019).