



**BESSES
BOYS' BAND**

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



a) Policy Statement

This policy applies to all members, volunteers or staff working on behalf of Besses Boys' Band.

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who are members of the band.
- to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection

Besses Boys' Band believes that a child, young person or vulnerable adults 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 practice in a way that protects them.

b) Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

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

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 a 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, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
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c) We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for and members and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- Ensure that all concerts, contests and band outings have been risk assessed for safety and suitability.
- Ensure that all trips and visits comply with safeguarding guidelines.
- providing effective support and training for volunteers with responsibility
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, volunteers and members
- sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.



d) Useful contact details

Band Welfare Officer: Becca Hurst
Tel: 07792368359

Local police: 101 or if a child is in immediate danger 999

Bury Safeguarding hub:
Tel: 01612535678 out of hours: 01612536606
Web: <https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10831>

Advice: NSPCC
Helpline: 0808 800 5000
Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

ChildLine:
Tel: 0800 1111 (textphone 0800 400 222)
Web: www.childline.org.uk

Brass Band England Welfare Officer:
Tel: 01226 771015
Web: <https://www.bbe.org.uk/>

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

e) Types of Abuse

In terms of safeguarding guidelines, a child is “anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday”.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is a personal responsibility and liability which cannot be passed to the band or band committee.

All trustees, committee members, band members, volunteers and staff should be aware of the different forms abuse can take. In general terms, abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child/vulnerable person. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting: by those known to them or, more rarely, a stranger. They may be abused by an adult, or adults or another child/children. If any member of the band or band committee suspects abuse of any kind, they have a duty to act.

Commonly accepted definitions of the five main types of abuse are outlined below. These definitions may help, but staff suspecting a child is at risk of abuse should consult, especially where there is uncertainty.

i. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, 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 or young person.



ii. **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child/young person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on their emotional development. It may involve conveying to children/young people that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children/young people. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as over protection 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 causing the child/young person frequently to feel frightened or in danger. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child/young person though it may occur alone.

iii. **Sexual Abuse**

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

Sexual abuse frequently leaves no signs and is difficult to spot. The absence of signs and symptoms does not mean that a child has not been subject to abuse, but many of the symptoms may be caused by conditions unrelated to sexual abuse.

iv. **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's/young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of their 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 provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

v. **Bullying**

This may be bullying of a child by an adult or another child. Bullying is defined as deliberate hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It may be physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name-calling, graffiti, abusive text messages transmitted by phone or on the internet), emotional (e.g. tormenting, ridiculing, humiliating, ignoring, isolating from the group), or sexual (e.g. unwanted physical contact or abusive comments).



f) Dealing with a safeguarding concern

Ways that abuse might be brought to your attention

- a child might make a direct disclosure about him or herself
- a child might make a direct disclosure about another child
- a child might offer information that is worrying but not a direct disclosure
- a member of the band or volunteer might be concerned about a child's appearance or behaviour or about the behaviour of an adult towards a child
- a parent or carer might make a disclosure about abuse that a child is suffering or at risk of suffering
- a parent might offer information about a child that is worrying but not a direct disclosure.

Talking to a child who has told you that he/she or another child is being abused

- Reassure the child that telling someone about it was the right thing to do.
- Tell him/her that you now must do what you can to keep him/her (or the child who is the subject of the allegation) safe.
- Let the child know what you are going to do next and who else needs to know about it.
- Let the child tell his or her whole story. Don't try to investigate or quiz the child, but make sure that you are clear as to what he/she is saying.
- Ask the child what he/she would like to happen because of what he/she has said, but don't make or infer promises you can't keep.
- Give the child the Child Line phone number: 0800 1111.

Helping a child in immediate danger or in need of emergency medical attention

- If the child is in immediate danger and is with you, remain with him/her and call the police.
- If the child is elsewhere, contact the police and explain the situation to them.
- If he/she needs emergency medical attention, call an ambulance and, while you are waiting for it to arrive, get help from your first aider.
- If the first aider is not available, use any first aid knowledge that you may have yourself to help the child.
- You also need to contact the bands named Welfare Officer responsible for child protection to let them know what is happening.

A decision will need to be made about who should inform the child's family and the local authority children's social care department, and when they should be informed. If you have involved the police and/or the health services, they should be part of this decision. Consider the welfare of the child in your decision making as the highest priority.

Issues that will need to be considered are:

- the child's wishes and feelings
- the parent's right to know (unless this would place the child or someone else in danger, or would interfere with a criminal investigation)
- the impact of telling or not telling the parent
- the current assessment of the risk to the child and the source of that risk
- any risk management plans that currently exist.

Once any immediate danger or emergency medical need has been dealt with, follow the steps set out in the flowchart at the end of this section.



Keeping a record of your concerns

It is important to keep a clear detailed record of events and communication in relation to the concern. It can be used to forward information to the statutory child protection authorities if a referral to them is needed. The form / log should be signed and dated by all those involved in its completion and kept confidentially on the child's file. The name of the person making the notes should be written alongside each entry.

Procedure for helping a child not in immediate danger

We aim to ensure all young people within the band and any other children who may come to the attention of the band receive the protection and support they need if they are at risk of abuse.

This procedure provides clear direction to members and volunteers of the band if they have concerns that a child needs protection.

Band Member has concerns about a child's safety or welfare



Band member makes notes of their concerns using the reporting form, and discusses them with the named Welfare Officer.



If the child's family does not already know about the concern, the Welfare Officer discusses it with them **unless**:

- a family member might be responsible for abusing the child
- someone may be put in danger by the family being informed
- informing the family might interfere with a criminal investigation.

If any of these circumstances apply, discussions with the family should only take place after this has been agreed with the local authority children's social care department.



If there is still uncertainty about the concerns, the Officer can discuss with children's social care department or with NSPCC Helpline without disclosing the identity of the child/family.