

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY – LONDON & SOUTHERN COUNTIES REGIONAL CONTEST OF THE NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS OF GREAT BRITAIN (L&SCRC)

Commitment to safeguarding

L&SCRC believes that a child, young person or adults 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 protect them from harm.

About this policy

- This policy applies to: all band and committee members, staff (whether employees or freelancers), volunteers and anyone working on behalf of L&SCRC or taking part in L&SCRC activities,
- The purpose of this policy is to provide band and committee members, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of vulnerable people.
- This policy recognises vulnerable people as:
 1. Children up to the age of 16 or young people aged 16-18.
 2. 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.
- This policy aims to:
 1. Protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who are: band members of, receive services from, or volunteer for, L&SCRC,
 2. Ensure band and committee members, staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are carefully recruited and understand and accept responsibility for the safeguarding of those vulnerable individuals they are interacting with,
 3. Ensure that safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a primary consideration when L&SCRC undertakes any activity, event or project.

How L&SCRC might work with vulnerable people: entry of bands is open and L&SCRC organise one contest per year but is not limited to:

- Members of the bands attending and competing
- Relatives and friends of members who attend in a volunteering capacity
- Audience members at a public event

The annual competition is NOT a regulated event.

Conditions of band entry requires entering bands to adopt full responsibility for any members of their group (whether playing member or not) who fall into the categories described above and advise in writing in advance any concerns they may have. Bands are responsible for ensuring appropriate control ratios, parental permissions and DBS qualified persons are applied for their group.

Named safeguarding person: The Chairperson of L&SCRC has responsibility for safeguarding issues. All queries and concerns relating to safeguarding should be referred to the Chairperson as Safeguarding Lead in the first instance.

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

Policy review: This policy will be reviewed and amended (if necessary) on an annual basis by the L&SCRC committee. It will also be reviewed in response to changes in relevant legislation, good practice, or in response to an identified failing in its effectiveness.

Safeguarding policy – L&SCRC- Ground rules, ways of working and procedures

This document forms part of the L&SCRC Safeguarding policy

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This document includes:

- Recruitment practices around safeguarding,
- Ground rules and ways of working regarding safeguarding of vulnerable groups,
- Procedures for raising safeguarding concerns and incidents of abuse,
- Procedures for dealing with concerns and incidents of abuse.

Recruitment practices around safeguarding

If an existing or potential new member, staff member or volunteer will be working with vulnerable people as part of the L&SCRC activities the appropriate level of DBS may be requested before that work is undertaken,

The level of DBS check required will be decided by the committee and in line with DBS rules regarding regulated activity (as defined by Department of Health document effective 10 September 2012). The results of any check to inform a decision will be used confidentially

Ground rules and ways for working regarding safeguarding of vulnerable people

When L&SCRC organises an activity or event where they will be responsible for vulnerable people they will ensure:

- Is carried out in line with this policy and procedures,
- Responsibility for vulnerable people remains with bands who must appoint suitably qualified persons on behalf of their group
- There is a main contact in the band (who have vulnerable people amongst their members) responsible for safeguarding on the day – this will be an individual who has been DBS checked. This contact should identify themselves to the contest management team
- The main contact has access to emergency control
- A vulnerable person is not left alone with an adult, unless that adult is DBS checked and carrying out regulated activity
- There is the creation and maintenance of an anti-bullying environment which helps us to deal effectively with any bullying that may arise.

Working with parents/guardians:

If a vulnerable person wishes to take part in L&SCRC activities written permission (email is fine) should be obtained by individual's bands 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 if applicable.

Procedures for raising safeguarding concerns and incidents of abuse

- If any member staff or volunteer in L&SCRC 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 Nigel Hall or James Haigh having undertaken the BandSafe training administered by Brass Bands England.
- If an individual wishes to report an incident of abuse against them they should report it to the named safeguarding officer or an individual they trust.
- Whistleblowers will be protected at the event and within the committee if it is related to safeguarding when an issue is not being taken seriously for example within the band itself or the Safeguarding Lead in the committee. This does not apply to matters such as financial information which are confidential or they have been asked for the matter to remain confidential

Procedures for dealing with concerns or incidents of abuse

The named Safeguarding Officer (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 are involved in the incident.
- Escalate the report by either:
 1. Raising concerns with the police – for serious or possible criminal offences
 2. Requesting an assessment by the local authority social care department about whether a vulnerable person is in need of protection.
 3. An internal investigation – for less serious incidents.
- 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:
 1. Inform all parties of the reported abuse as soon as possible.
 2. Inform the band/family/guardians of the person reported as being/having abused
 3. Arrange separate meetings with both parties within 10 days of the reported incident
 4. 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 office 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;
 1. Escalate the incident to the relevant authority.
 2. Further investigation – with established procedures and timelines to work toward a resolution
 3. A decision or resolution.

Resolution and disciplinary action

- If the 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.
- Any disciplinary action will be taken in line with the L&SCRC or relevant constitution to include the National Rules of the National Brass Bands Championships of Great Britain.

9 February 2022 reviewed 11 February 2025