

Crouch End Festival Chorus Adult Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction: what is safeguarding?

1.i. "Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their circumstances." *Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Department of Health Feb 2017*

1.ii. All adults should be able to live free from fear and harm. But some may find it hard to get the help and support they need to stop abuse.

1.iii An adult may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to many reasons, including their mental or physical incapacity, sensory loss or physical or learning disabilities. This could be an adult who is usually able to protect themselves from harm but maybe unable to do so because of an accident, disability, frailty, addiction or illness.

2. Who do adult safeguarding duties apply to?

2.i The Care Act 2014 sets out that adult safeguarding duties apply to *any* adult who:

- has care and support needs, and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect, and
- is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect, because of those needs

2.ii According to the Act, an "adult at risk" is therefore an adult aged 18 years or over who:

- is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness
- who is or may be unable to take care of themselves, or is unable to protect him/ herself against harm or exploitation (Department of Health 2000).

2.iii The term "adult at risk" may include people with a wide range of disabilities and circumstances, who may be experiencing conditions that reduce their choice and control, their ability to make decisions or to protect themselves from harm and exploitation. An adult at risk may therefore be an individual who:

- has a learning disability
- has a mental health/ mental capacity issue
- misuses substances or alcohol.

3. Application to CEFC

3.i. Crouch End Festival Chorus (CEFC) is a large, non-professional, symphonic choir. It is a registered charitable company whose key aim is to sing and promote choral music to the public at the highest standards. The Care Act states that everyone has a role to play in the safeguarding of adults and therefore CEFC has created this document to identify what actions we might need to take. Because of the nature of the individual skills, commitment and focus required to fulfil this aim it is unlikely that we will have members who are at risk because of learning difficulties, although risk of abuse (e.g. domestic violence, controlling behaviours), self harm or neglect, substance abuse or alcohol problems might occur at any time.

3.ii We have a very wide age range within the choir and some of our members have physical impairments or disabilities, or may experience some mental health issues. This might affect their locus of control about how they go about their daily lives and therefore at times impact on how they interact with CEFC. Where this is identified, the choir aims to offer reasonable support to enable them to continue to sing. This is covered in our Equality and Diversity Policy, our Health and Safety Policy and our Prevention of Harassment Code.

4. Policy Statement

4.i Crouch End Festival Chorus will not tolerate the abuse of adults in any of its forms and is committed to safeguarding the adults described above in paragraph 2.iii. with support for their needs, within the resources available to the choir.

4.ii Providing support for individuals should be person-led and outcome-focused. The individual should be involved in identifying how best to respond to their safeguarding situation by giving them more choice and control about how to manage their safety.

4.iii Charity Trustees are responsible for making sure that no one is harmed by any contact with CEFC and ensuring that the charity fulfils any role in referring an adult identified as being at risk to the relevant local authority for support and help. It is recommended that the trustees appoint a safeguarding lead on the Board and that CEFC record the names of any members who have had recognised Adult Safeguarding Training to advise the charity on an ad-hoc basis.

4.iv Working with partners: if we contract with partners who have vulnerable adults within their membership (e.g. within a workshop) we expect them to demonstrate compliance with safeguarding legislation and guidance through their own Adult Safeguarding Policy.

5. Who do I go to if I am concerned?

New members should make any needs known to the General Manager or Membership lead on joining the choir, in order to discuss what can be reasonably done to support them within our resources. Members can share any subsequent concerns about themselves or others in confidence with the General Manager who

will address them with the person concerned and if necessary make a referral for help for the concerns identified. We are not responsible for the subsequent investigation of such concerns. Any referrals will be documented but kept confidential. Appendix 1 explains that in certain circumstances we might need to report a safeguarding issue irrespective of whether the individual would want us to.

6. Who does this policy statement apply to?

This policy statement is intended to supplement the existing CEFC policies on Equality and Diversity and Health and Safety, and the Prevention of Harassment Code. Members and subcontractors working with CEFC need to understand their role and responsibilities in safeguarding adults. Therefore, all members and subcontractors are expected to comply with this policy statement.

7. Review

This policy will be regularly reviewed by the Trustees, will be posted on the CEFC public website, and will be included in the pack given to all new members.

Appendix 1 Consent to Refer to Safeguarding Services

In CEFC any safeguarding issue will be discussed with the individual concerned and if they need help then, with their consent, we will refer them to the relevant Local Authority Safeguarding Service.

Individuals could refuse to be referred which is their right except where there is concern that:

- A criminal offence has occurred
- The serious and ongoing nature of the abuse means that the individual or another person is at risk and they are unable to make decisions as it is affecting their mental capacity, so in order to protect them the information must be shared with those who can help.

Policy title	Adult safeguarding policy
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