



The Amici Singers
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Registered Charity No. 277766

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy

This policy was agreed at a Committee meeting of The Amici Singers on 16 January 2014.

There is a considerable body of legislation, government guidance and standards, which are designed to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected from harm. This includes:

The Children Act 1989 (England & Wales) and s.31 (9 and 10) as amended by the Adoption & Children Act 2002.

The intention of the Children Act 1989 is to ensure that the welfare and developmental needs of children are met, including their need to be protected from harm.

Data Protection Act 1998, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Code of Practice 2008.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005, covering England and Wales.

The Human Rights Act 1998 gives legal effect in the UK to the fundamental rights and freedoms contained in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The Amici Singers are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of the children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount. We recognise that:

All children or vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. Working in partnership with children, young people and their parents, carers and other agencies, is essential in promoting young people's, children's and vulnerable adults' welfare.

The Amici singers recognise that particular care is needed for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations or by disabilities, age, religion or ethnicity.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to support the Amici Singers in being a safe, supportive and caring community for children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Amici singers commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the Amici Singers or any other context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust. Children and young people from every community can be hurt, put at risk of harm or abused, regardless of their age, religion or ethnicity. In our work and contact with children we all have a responsibility to keep them safe from harm. Safeguarding is about trying to make sure that children and vulnerable adults do not get harmed, and knowing what to do if anyone is worried about a child or vulnerable adult.

The Amici Singers have a safeguarding policy in place because it:

protects children and young people and vulnerable adults from harm and abuse

enables Amici Singers and those connected to the Amici Singers to know what to do if they are worried

shows that The Amici Singers are responsible

The Amici Singers appoint Julie Brooke as Safeguarding Representative and Christine Denny as Assistant Safeguarding Representative.

The purpose of the policy:

To provide protection for the children, young people and vulnerable adults who come into contact with The Amici singers.

To provide safeguarding representatives with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

The policy applies to all members of The Amici Singers, volunteers, or anyone working on behalf of or alongside The Amici Singers.

The Amici Singers will seek to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by:

valuing, listening to and respecting them

adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for The Amici Singers and volunteers

sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately

providing effective support for staff and volunteers through support and training

What to do if a child or vulnerable adult discloses harm to you

Receive

- Listen to the child or vulnerable adult
- If you are shocked by what they are saying, try not to show it
- Take what they say seriously
- Accept what the child/adult says
- DO NOT ask for (other) information

Reassure

- Stay Calm and reassure the child/adult that they have done the right thing in talking to you
- Be honest with the child/adult so do not make promises you can't keep
- Do not promise confidentiality – you have a duty to refer the child/adult who is at risk
- Acknowledge how hard it must have been for the child/adult to tell you what happened

React

- React to the child/adult only as far as is necessary for you to establish whether or not you need to refer this matter, but do not interrogate them for details
- Do not ask leading questions
- Explain what you have to do next and to whom you have to talk
- Explain and if possible seek agreement that you will have to discuss the situation with someone else and will do so on a 'need to know' basis.

Record

- Make some brief notes at the time and write them up more fully as soon as possible
- Take care to record timing, setting and personnel as well as what was said
- Be objective in your recording – include statements and observable things rather than your interpretations or assumptions

Discuss the matter with the Safeguarding representative immediately.

The Amici Singers will:

treat all children and young people with respect

provide an example of good conduct that they wish others to follow

ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people, or at least that they are within sight or hearing of others

respect a young person's, vulnerable adult's right to personal privacy

encourage children and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like

challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspensions of abuse

Good Practice

The Amici Singers believe good practice means:

All people are treated with dignity and respect.

Those who act on behalf of the Amici singers should not meet or work alone with a

child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen or heard.

A risk assessment should be made of premises for safety of children and vulnerable adults and this risk assessment report should be given annually to the committee in written form, including fire safety procedures.

Any Amici Singers' organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure that the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver is appropriate.

Key concepts and definitions

Vulnerable Adults. Any adult aged 18 or over, by reason of disability, age, illness or other situation who is permanently or for the time being, unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation

Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.

Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to an activity which is undertaken to protect children/adults who are suffering or at risk of suffering SIGNIFICANT harm.

Abuse and neglect may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

The Amici Singers are committed to reviewing their policy and good practice annually in the month of September

Chairman's signature

Date