

## **Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy**

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Tees Valley Arts.

### **1. Our Aim**

- (1) To protect children and young people who receive Tees Valley Arts services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- (2) To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding protection.

### **2. About Our Policy**

- (1) Tees Valley Arts believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have the 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.

- (2) Legal Framework:

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

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguard Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015

- (3) Related Policies and Procedures:

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures on:

- Recruitment, induction and training
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording and information sharing
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Safer recruitment
- E-safety
- Anti-Bullying
- Complaints

- Whistle Blowing
- Health and Safety
- Training, supervision and support
- Lone working policy and procedure
- Quality assurance

### 3. Our Responsibilities

(I) We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children's 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 their previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, careers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

### 4. Our Commitments

(I) We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people, a deputy and a lead board member for safeguarding
- Adopting child protection and a safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording and storing information professionally and securing, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, one-to-one discussions
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

### 5. Working with contractors, suppliers and partners

- (I) It is important to us that suppliers, contractors and any other individual or organisation working on behalf of TVA are aware of and agree to comply with our safeguarding children and young people policy while that work is underway.

## 6. Review and Action

- (1) We recognise that it is important for us to regularly review this policy to ensure that it reflects up to date safeguarding legislation and best practice.
- (2) A review of our Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy will be carried out on an annual basis as a minimum and any necessary actions taken.

**Adopted:** 11 July 2017 by the governance sub-committee under delegated authority of the board  
**Last Revised:** 2 August 2017 by the Operations Manager to substituting CEO for Executive Director

**Source:** Based on NSPCC Example of a safeguarding policy:  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/writing-a-safeguarding-policy/>

## Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy Essential Contact Details

### 1. Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

James Beighton, Executive Director  
+44 (0) 1642 264 655 / [james@teesvalleyarts.org.uk](mailto:james@teesvalleyarts.org.uk)

### 2. Deputy DSO

Peter Neal, Operations Manager  
+44 (0) 1642 264 651 / [office@teesvalleyarts.org.uk](mailto:office@teesvalleyarts.org.uk)

### 3. Senior Lead for Safeguarding

Mike McNulty, Chair of the Governance Sub-Committee  
[safeguarding@teesvalleyarts.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@teesvalleyarts.org.uk)

### 4. CEOP: [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

### 5. NSPCC Helpline: +44 (0) 808 800 5000