

City of Chester Male Voice Choir (CCMVC)

Safeguarding Policy

Legal Context

The law requires any organisation involving young people and vulnerable adults to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to their welfare are minimised, and where there are concerns, to share them with other local agencies. The relevant legal requirements arise from:

The Children's Act 1989

The Human Rights Act 1998

The Protection of Children Act 1999

The Sexual Offences (Amendments) Act 2006

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The relevant government guidance includes Safe from Harm 1993

Working Together to Safeguard Children 1999

Caring for the Young and Vulnerable 2000

CCMVC recognises that it is not the role of our organisation to decide whether a child or vulnerable adult has been abused or not. This is the role of the Social Services department who have legal responsibility or the NSPCC who have powers to investigate child protection concerns under the Children Act.

Good Practice

In developing this policy, CCMVC has taken advice from the national amateur music performance association Making Music.

Who are Children or Vulnerable Adults?

In this context anyone up to the age of 19 is a child and anyone over 18 years who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation is a vulnerable adult.

How CCMVC Operates

CCMVC is a Registered Charity, composed of amateur choir members. Officers are elected and others co-opted to serve on the Committee. Rehearsals are run by our self-employed Musical Director or a substitute on occasion, with an accompanist. These are neither employed staff nor volunteers in the conventional sense.

CCMVC does not advertise itself as an activity suitable for children or vulnerable adults. Most choir members are independent adults. It happens only rarely that a young person or vulnerable adult joins, rehearses and performs with us.

Choir rehearsals and performances are group activities, and there is no need for a member of the choir to be alone with another member of any age. CCMVC is therefore unlikely to be targeted by a person seeking opportunities to abuse children or vulnerable adults. Nonetheless CCMVC recognises the need to safeguard any young and vulnerable members and the Committee has therefore agreed the following Safeguarding Policy.

CCMVC's Safeguarding Policy

1. CCMVC will publicise its Safeguarding policy on its website (www.chestermalevoice.com) and draw it to the attention of members at the Annual General Meeting.
2. Young people will be welcome to participate in choral works requiring children and/or youth voices with CCMVC as long as they bring a parent or other responsible adult who remains responsible for them throughout rehearsals and performances.
3. CCMVC have nominated a Designated Person, Ron Webster, who is DBS*-checked and who will attend appropriate training as required.
4. Choir members will report any concerns relating to young people and vulnerable adults to the Designated Person. **Detailed Guidance is available from the Designated Person.**
5. In the absence of the Designated Person the matter should be reported to the Secretary of the CCMVC. A permanent confidential record will be kept of the report.
6. If CCMVC should need to recruit staff, then the Choir Committee will apply safeguarding principles to ensure that appointees are suitable to work with young or vulnerable people.
7. The policy and procedures will be reviewed annually at a Choir Committee meeting.
8. This Policy document was approved at a committee meeting on 14th May 2018.

Signed by the Secretary on behalf of the Choir Committee.

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J Walsh
Secretary, City of Chester Male Voice Choir

*Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly CRB)