



Safeguarding Policy

Reviewed September 2021

Marsden Jazz Festival presents an annual jazz festival in the village of Marsden, West Yorkshire, with occasional concerts between festivals. Much of our activity involves the organisation of musical and music-related events intended for adult audiences. However young people of secondary school age and below perform at the festival, for example in school and local authority organised bands, and take part in festival-related workshops. We are also aware that 'at risk' adults may attend or perform at the festival. Our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures have been designed to be responsive, responsible and practical. The Policy and Procedures will be reviewed annually.

Principles

Marsden Jazz Festival is committed to the safeguarding of all children, young people and adults at risk. There is a duty placed on public agencies under the Human Rights Act (1998) to intervene to protect the rights of citizens. Also the Children Act 1989 makes it clear that the welfare of the child is paramount and that everyone involved in the care of children has a responsibility for the protection of those children from harm. It is also essential that we honour the trust placed in us to care for children, young people and at risk adults participating in and attending festival events.

Objectives

The key objectives of this policy are:

- To provide staff, volunteers, committee and trustees with an overview of child and adult safeguarding.
- To explain the responsibilities Marsden Jazz Festival and its staff, volunteers, committee and trustees have in respect of safeguarding children and adults at risk.
- To provide a clear procedure that will be implemented where a safeguarding issue arises concerning a child or adult at risk.

Definitions

- A child is a child before their birth (i.e. during pregnancy) and until their 18th birthday.
- An adult at risk is any adult who needs community care services because of mental or other disability, age or illness and who are, or may be, unable to take care of themselves against harm or exploitation.

Identifying abuse

The term 'abuse' is used to describe various ways that someone can be harmed or mistreated. This can happen anywhere and at any time. Child abuse is generally split into four categories - physical, neglect, sexual and emotional. Abuse of adults at risk is split into seven categories, it includes the four used for children but also three further categories; financial, institutional and discriminatory. As 'Institutional abuse' is not relevant in the context of the festival only the definitions of the other six different types of abuse are included below:

Physical abuse

This may involve hitting, kicking, shaking, throwing, squeezing, suffocating, drowning, burning or biting the child or adult at risk. Giving a child alcohol is also a form of physical abuse. Giving a child or adult at risk (against their free and informed consent) drugs, poison, or overmedicating using prescribed medications are also forms of physical abuse. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's or an adult at risk's basic physical and psychological needs. This may include the failure to meet basic needs, like food, shelter, warm clothing or medical attention. Neglect of children may occur before their birth (i.e. during pregnancy) as a result of substance misuse and is also the failure to provide adequate supervision (including leaving children with inappropriate carers).

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or adult at risk to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Activities may involve penetrative and non-penetrative acts or non-contact activities such as forcing a child or adult at risk to look at, or take part in the production of pornographic materials. For children it can also include encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Sexual abuse includes grooming a child in preparation for abuse, for example, via the internet.

Emotional abuse

For children emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child, such as to cause severe adverse effects on that child's emotional development. This may involve a lack of love and affection, telling a child they are worthless, serious bullying or being constantly shouted at. Emotional abuse also occurs when the child is valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person, when the child is overprotected and unable to explore and learn on their own, or when they witness the ill-treatment or abuse of another

(including domestic violence, or animal cruelty). Other examples are serious bullying, including cyber bullying, making fun of what the child says or how they communicate. For adults at risk emotional, sometimes called psychological, abuse can include the threats of harm or abandonment, blaming or controlling behavior or enforced isolation.

Financial abuse

This type of abuse is used for abuse of adults at risk only, however if you think that a child is being abused financially you should report this in the usual way. Financial abuse is when an adult at risk is exploited for financial gain. This can include theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Discriminatory abuse

Discriminatory abuse is behaviour that makes or sees a distinction between people as a basis for prejudice or unfair treatment. This can include racism, sexism, homophobia, disability and not respecting individuals' right to worship.

Responsibilities of Marsden Jazz Festival

In order to give children and young people and at risk adults protection from potential and actual abuse and to reduce risk of harm:

- Staff, volunteers, committee and trustees will be briefed on the issues involved in Safeguarding and procedures will be put in place that are shared and understood by all concerned.
- All festival related workshops must be run by groups with recognised legal status and workers with current DBS certificates which are checked by the festival executive.
- Clear instructions will be given on workshop safety.
- Children under 11 years old and adults at risk must be accompanied by an adult to all workshops and performances
- Youth and school groups will be accompanied by a named worker from their organisation
- More than one adult must be present during activities with children and young people
- The festival will have a designated Safeguarding contact with a current enhanced DBS Certificate and recent safeguarding training on its committee. The designated Safeguarding contact will be contacted in the case of disclosure, or to discuss suspicions and doubts relating to any participants in connection with Safeguarding issues.
- Unacceptable behaviour will be challenged and all allegations/suspicions of abuse will be reported to the festival's designated Safeguarding contact, who, can be contacted at all times during the festival. **Kate Button** is our current Safeguarding contact. Her contact details are below:

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Kate Button	07840 707643
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- Should the concern be about a member of a participating organisation or another volunteer's behaviour then this should also be discussed with the Safeguarding contact.

- Volunteers and participating organisations working with young people will be provided with a copy of the festival’s Safeguarding Policy. They should sign to say that they have read and understood the policy.
- Volunteers are also recommended to complete training in ‘An Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect’ via the Kirklees Safeguarding Board’s web-site: www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk
- **NB Please ensure that when logging on to the Kirklees Safeguarding Board’s web-site, you state that you are a volunteer and that Marsden Jazz Festival is a charity within Kirklees.**

Marsden Jazz Festival recognises that disclosure of abuse could be made during festival activities to any person involved in running the festival. Where possible one of the MJF Key Contacts should be involved immediately. Whether or not this can be done in the event of a disclosure:

- Stay calm and try not to look shocked
- Listen carefully
- Be sympathetic
- Be reassuring:
 - s/he is right to tell you
 - you take the information seriously
 - it was not their fault
 - you are not able to keep the information secret
 - you will tell someone appropriate

Stay close to a co-worker, in eye contact if possible. Contact the designated Safeguarding contact. Write down what you have been told, word for word if possible, after the contact with the young person or adult at risk. Sign and date this report and keep it in a safe place. The young person or adult at risk should have access to this written report. Following this:

- The Safeguarding contact will then decide whether it is appropriate to contact Children’s Social Care (in the case of children and young persons), Gateway to Care (in the case of adults at risk) or the police.
- In the event that the Safeguarding contact is not available or contactable this should not delay action being taken to protect a child. Any of MJF’s Key Contacts may contact Children’s Social Care or Gateway to Care directly to raise their concerns. Contact numbers are as follows:

Kirklees Children’s Social Care – Duty and Advice Team 01484 414960	Gateway to Care (Concerns for Safeguarding Adults) 01484 414933
Out of Hours Duty (Children and Adults) 01484 414933	

If there are any concerns about the immediate safety of a child or an adult at risk then the police must be contacted on 999 without delay.

- The parents or carers of the child or adult at risk will be contacted as soon as possible following advice from Children's Social Care, Gateway to Care and/or the police.

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