

Safeguarding Policy

Highworth Choral Society

Introduction

This safeguarding policy outlines the measures and procedures in place to ensure the safety, well-being, and protection of all members of Highworth Choral Society. As a choir, we are committed to creating a safe and respectful environment where every participant feels valued and secure.

Scope

This policy applies to all members, volunteers, and any other individuals involved with the Choral Society. It covers activities, rehearsals, performances, and any other events or engagements. Highworth Choral Society does not promote itself as an activity suitable for children and the current requirement is that members are at least 18. There may however be at-risk adults who join the choir.

Choral Society rehearsals and performances are group activities, and there is no requirement for a member of the society to be alone with another member of any age. The Choral Society is aware that children and adults at risk may attend their concerts as members of the audience, or attend social functions hosted by the Choir, when it is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or carer to ensure adequate supervision. Highworth Choral Society recognises the need to safeguard any vulnerable members or people attending concerts.

Safeguarding Principles

1. Respect: Every member should be treated with respect and dignity.
2. Equality: All practices should promote inclusivity and equality, ensuring no discrimination on the grounds of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, or any other characteristic.
3. Safety: Procedures should be in place to protect members from harm, abuse, or exploitation.
4. Confidentiality: Members' personal information should be handled in the strictest confidence.

Designated Safeguarding Officer

The designated safeguarding officer (DSO) will:

1. Implement and monitor the safeguarding policy.
2. Ensure all members are aware of the policy and procedures.
3. Act as the main point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
4. Ensure complaints and concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.
5. Liaise with external agencies if necessary.

The DSO must be DBS checked.

Code of Conduct

All members are expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

1. Treat all choir members and volunteers with respect.
2. Maintain appropriate boundaries and avoid any behaviour that could be perceived as abusive or discriminatory.
3. Report any safeguarding concerns to the designated safeguarding officer.

Reporting Procedures

Recognising Concerns

Members should be aware of the signs of abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse. Any concerns or allegations must be taken seriously and reported immediately.

Reporting Concerns

1. Contact the designated safeguarding officer with any concerns or allegations.
2. Provide a detailed account of the concern, including any evidence or witnesses.
3. Maintain confidentiality and only share information with those who need to know.

Dealing with Concerns

The designated safeguarding officer will:

1. Assess the concern and determine the appropriate course of action.
2. Document all actions taken and maintain a confidential record of the concern.
3. Liaise with external agencies if necessary, such as social services or the police.

Training and Awareness

The choir will provide updates on safeguarding issues for all members. This will include:

1. Understanding the signs of abuse and how to report concerns.
2. Recognising the importance of maintaining appropriate boundaries.
3. Awareness of the Choral Society's safeguarding policy and procedures.

Monitoring and Review

The safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and up to date. Any changes or updates will be communicated to members.

Contact Information

For any safeguarding concerns or queries, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer:

Teresa Francis
07967015952
teresa.francis@yahoo.co.uk

Conclusion

Creating a safe and supportive environment is essential for the well-being and enjoyment of all choral society members. By adhering to this safeguarding policy, we can ensure that every participant feels valued, respected, and protected. This safeguarding policy reflects our commitment to promoting a positive and secure atmosphere within Highworth Choral Society. We encourage all members to familiarise themselves with this document and to actively contribute to the safety and well-being of our choir community.

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