



Policy for the Safeguarding of Children and Young People

1. Introduction to LMN

LMN was established over thirty years ago by the violinist Yehudi Menuhin, and retains his initial twofold aims:

- To enhance people's lives by bringing live music into their everyday experience, especially those whose access is restricted due to disability or disadvantage
- To promote standards of excellence in young musicians and music leaders and develop their developing careers

LMN operates through nine branches covering the UK, organising over 3,000 performances and workshops each year in venues for children with special educational needs, older people, hospital patients, young offenders, adults with learning difficulties, physical disabilities, mental health problems or sensory impairments, isolated rural communities: in short any group whose members are normally denied access to high quality creative experiences through social, economic or geographical disadvantage.

The objective of each LMN performance is to engage, entertain and stimulate its audience and to enable them to experience the therapeutic, educational and social benefits of live music, shared within an audience and as participants. Audiences at LMN performances are actively encouraged to take part in the concert through a broad range of musical and group activities which are appropriate to their abilities.

2. Policy Statement

LMN believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

This policy has been written to enable all those concerned with our activities (musicians, LMN staff, project management team members, Trustees, volunteers, teachers, carers, parents, venue staff, partners and funders) to understand the environment in which we deliver our activities and to assist children and young people, their parents and carers to understand what we mean by Safeguarding. In sharing this knowledge and ensuring that those involved in the delivery of LMN activities understand it, we form a partnership that will assist us in ensuring that the environment in which we work is as safe as is reasonably practicable.

3. Principles

This policy and the accompanying procedures and code of conduct are based on LMN's commitment to the following principles:

LMN recognises that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children 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, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

4. Purpose of the Policy

LMN's purpose in producing this policy is as follows:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive LMN's services, including the children of adult members or users
- To provide musicians, LMN staff, project management team members, Trustees and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a children or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm

5. To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to all LMN staff, project management team members, musicians, volunteers, Trustees of the charity and anyone working on behalf of LMN.

LMN will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training

6. Review

This policy, the accompanying procedures and code of conduct will be reviewed by LMN's Trustees and Directors on an annual basis

This policy and the accompanying procedures have been written using guidelines issued by the NSPCC and are underpinned by the following legislation: The Children Act 1989; The Children Act 2004; Protection of Children Act 1999; The Police Act 1997; Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000; Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Specific guidelines relating to Wales, Ireland and Scotland, as provided by the national Arts Council for each country are included as appendices within the Safeguarding Procedures Documentation.