



Safeguarding Policy

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Introduction

This Safeguarding Policy is for the supervision and care of children (those under eighteen years of age) and vulnerable adults who are members of the Steel City Choristers. This is a working document which is reviewed at least annually (and more regularly when needed) and should be read in conjunction with the Steel City Choristers Chaperone Policy and applicable risk assessments.

Steel City Choristers seeks to promote the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults. Everyone, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, disability or ethnic origin has a right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Our members and stakeholders should all share this commitment, and all have a responsibility for protecting children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm. We want everyone to feel and to be safe in our care, and in all our associated activities and work. As a registered charity, the safeguarding of everyone entrusted to our care is the responsibility of the Trustees. However, the trustees delegate day to day operation and oversight of safeguarding arrangements to our Safeguarding Team.

This guidance has, as far as possible, adopted the policies and procedures of the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership. We have adapted these policies to our own structure and routines to ensure that they take our particular circumstances into account.

For all enquiries about safeguarding or to report a concern, please do not hesitate to contact one of our safeguarding team, using the contact details towards the end of this policy.

For the purposes of this Policy and related documents, “Steel City Choristers” refers to the whole choir, including adult singers who are known as the “Steel City Clerks” when singing separately.

The term “adults” refers to all adults involved with the choir, including but not limited to trustees, Director of Music, singing teachers, singers, chaperones and visiting musicians.

This policy was last reviewed by Trustees on 23 November 2023.

1. Safeguarding Officers

1.1 Overall safeguarding responsibility lies with the Trustees of Steel City Choristers. Day-to-day management of safeguarding matters is delegated to the Safeguarding Team.

1.2 The Safeguarding Team comprises the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Steel City Choristers - Angela Holman and two Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads - Jeremy Dawson and Gill O'Connell.

2. Supervision Ratios

2.1 Every child must be appropriately supervised whilst on site and/or in our care. Minimum adult supervision ratios for children of different ages should be as follows:

- 4 – 8 years 1 adult to 6 children 1:6
- 9 – 12 years 1 adult to 8 children 1:8
- 13 – 18 years 1 adult to 10 children 1:10

2.2 Every session needs a minimum of two adult leaders/supervisors for each group. Those under eighteen years of age cannot be classed as an adult. Child to adult ratios for all groups should be based on applicable risk assessments and the guidelines above. Child to adult ratios need to be increased for outdoor activities and more so if that activity is considered a higher risk, or when children with disabilities or special needs are included.

2.3 For sessions with children of mixed gender, where possible there should be mixed gender leaders/ supervisors leading and assisting the session. It is recommended that wherever possible one of the leaders/supervisors should be female.

2.4 On no account should an adult be by themselves with any child or young person (unless they are a member of their family), and this possibility should always be mitigated. In the unlikely event that this happens, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or in their absence a deputy) should be informed asap.

3. Application of this Policy

3.1 All adults who come into regular contact with children and young people under our care and supervision will be informed of this policy. They will be expected to accept the policy and guidelines and work according to the stated requirements.

3.2 All new adult members will be required to read, accept and adhere to this policy and its guidelines. Activity leaders, chaperones, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will oversee the implementation of this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually, and when new guidance and legislation is available.

3.3 Where a member is unsure of any part of this policy they should contact one of the Safeguarding Team.

3.4 This policy is to be read and applied in conjunction with the Steel City Choristers Chaperone Policy.

4. Safer Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers

4.1 To ensure the safe and appropriate recruitment of activity leaders, chaperones and those who are in supervision of children, Steel City Choristers will adhere to the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership policy. This can be found at the following location:

<https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/scsp/topics/safer-recruitment>

4.2 All adults, including Patrons, Trustees, chaperones, visiting musicians and partners and other adults in volunteer roles will need to complete a confidential declaration form. This, and other related recruitment and induction policies, is covered in the New Adult Starters Policy.

4.3 All chaperones and others who are in supervision of children will be required to have satisfactory Child Workforce DBS checks, in addition to these confidential declarations.

4.5 Where a DBS check identifies any blemishes of any kind, the safeguarding leads and the Steel City Choristers Chair of Trustees must discuss any potential risk after consultation with the agency conducting the DBS check, and if the individual is to be appointed, whether a risk assessment needs to be completed.

4.4 All those appointed will follow good practice guidelines as outlined in this policy.

5. Rehearsal/Performance Premises

5.1 All activity leaders, chaperones and others who are in supervision of children must adhere to this policy as well as to relevant risk assessment for the location in which the session/activity is taking place.

5.2 It is the responsibility of the activity leaders to inform chaperones and those in supervision of children of relevant risk assessments.

5.3 Activity leaders and chaperones must arrive in good time before each session to ensure a safe environment for children. Two chaperones or other leaders with DBS checks should be present before unaccompanied children are admitted.

5.4 Activity leaders and chaperones must be familiar with, and adhere to, the contents of the Chaperone Policy.

6. Registration and Parental/Guardian Consent

6.1 Steel City Choristers keeps a register of children and young people attending each session (recorded on a sign-in sheet). In accordance with guidance from the Information and Records Management Society, these will be kept until the children in question are at least 25 years old.

6.2 For children, parental/guardian consent forms must be completed for every participant. These must include emergency contact details and any relevant medical information (for example, allergies), including multiple emergency contacts where relevant.

6.3 Relevant medical information will be readily available to activity leaders, chaperones and those in supervision of children and young people at each session, along with individual members' care plans (plans drawn up with parental input to enable safe management of any medical or emotional needs).

7. Health and Safety

7.1 All activity leaders and chaperones must be familiar with the Steel City Choristers Health and Safety Policy and ensure that they are also aware of the specific fire and safety regulations for the location in which their session is taking place.

7.2 All activity leaders and chaperones must be vigilant and aware of everyone on the premises during and around sessions. Anyone unknown to activity leaders or chaperones should be asked directly why they are present. Unless there is a legitimate reason for them to be there, they should be asked to leave.

7.3 All activity leaders and chaperones should know who to contact in an emergency (see Section 15: Contact Details). Any safeguarding issues should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible. In the event that they cannot be contacted one of the Deputies should be contacted.

7.4 Wherever possible, each session must have at least one adult present who has attended a basic first aid course. Activity leaders and chaperones must ensure that they know where to find a first aid kit for session locations. If an accident occurs, then this should be recorded on an incident and accident report form (a blank form can be found in Appendix 1 of this Policy), which should then be returned to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the earliest opportunity. If a child or young person is involved, then their parents/guardians should be informed as soon as possible.

8. Training

8.1 Activity leaders, chaperones and anyone else in regular contact with children must complete appropriate safeguarding training. Given the amount of time we spend singing in churches, this will normally be the Church of England's online safeguarding training, see: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org> for the Basic Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations courses (formerly known as C0 and C1). This training should be refreshed at least every three years. Further details are provided in the New Adult Starters Policy.

8.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Director of Music will renew their safeguarding training at least annually.

8.3 The Steel City Choristers Trustees will consider training needs alongside the annual review of this policy.

8.4 Steel City Choristers will endeavor to arrange further training when necessary.

9. Transport

9.1 Under normal circumstances transport is not arranged by the choir; parents/guardians are responsible for the transport of their own children to and from choir events. There may be occasions when the choir is traveling away from Sheffield when group transport (e.g. a coach) is provided. In these situations, specific consent from parents/guardians will be sought and numbers and ratios will be used as in section 1 of this policy.

9.2 While children are in the care of Steel City Choristers, they should not in general be taken in a car by themselves with any adult, unless they are their direct relation. If a situation arises necessitating the transport of children (e.g. an urgent journey to A&E), they should be accompanied, if at all possible, by two safely recruited adults. In the unlikely event that traveling alone with a child who is

not a direct relation is in the child's best interests, it should be reported as soon as possible to a member of the Safeguarding Team.

9.3 No child or young person will be permitted to travel home from a choir session alone, i.e. without the supervision of a parent/guardian or other trusted adult (as agreed by parent/guardian), unless their parent/guardian has given permission to us for this in writing. Such permissions will normally be collected as part of the induction process when children join the choir.

10. Residential Trips and Tours

10.1 Residential trips will have their own risk assessment to cover the specific circumstances of that trip.

11. Making and Publishing Images of Children

11.1 Images and films of individuals count as personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998 and therefore the principles of that Act apply here.

11.2 Written consent must be obtained from parents/guardians before any images are taken or published. The intent of publication must be made explicit.

11.3 It is the right of anyone (and parents/guardians) to withhold their consent for Steel City Choristers to make and publish images.

11.4 Children should not be identifiable by name when images are published. Where possible, no identifying marks on school uniform should be visible as this may enable them to be identified.

12. Communications

12.1 Adults in Steel City Choristers should, in general, avoid sharing their personal phone number, email address or other contact details with children in the choir. (We recognise that friendships exist between choir families and as such some parents may give permission for their children to be in touch on a personal basis with other adults who are also members of the choir.) If adults are required to make contact with children outside of choir sessions, this should, where possible, be through their parents/guardians.

12.2 Adults in Steel City Choristers should also avoid communicating with children directly by email or by private message on online social platforms, such as WhatsApp, Facebook, or X (formally Twitter).

13. Creating a Safe Working Culture

13.1 If a major concern arises, an emergency meeting of the Safeguarding Team should be called as soon as possible and ideally within 24 hours if possible.

13.2 All members of the Safeguarding Team will be made aware of any safeguarding issues arising, unless the issue concerned involves one of the team or a member of their immediate family. If necessary, the Chair of Trustees or the Choir's Pastoral Care Lead can be consulted if this situation arises. For contact details see Section 15.

13.3 The Safeguarding Team will check-in with each other at least once a term for a discussion that will usually cover:

- A wellbeing check in for each other
- Any major concerns reported or updates on ongoing issues
- Any minor issues that have arisen
- Update on DBS/ fully checked adults/safeguarding training status/ first aid training status
- Statutory national/local updates
- Any other matters to be aware of

13.4 If any member of Steel City Choristers is identified as a survivor or witness of abuse, they will be signposted to external support.

13.5 Those planning and delivering youth work sessions for Choristers should be mindful of always creating a safe atmosphere and culture for everyone involved.s.

13.6 Each Trustee meeting will begin with a wellbeing check-in.

14. Reporting Concerns

14.1 Any safeguarding issues relating to suspected abuse, risk of harm or improper behavior must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or, in their absence, the deputy DSL) at the earliest opportunity. When appropriate, this information will be shared with the safeguarding team as soon as possible. A decision will then be taken to either gather more information or seek external advice from an agency such as the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub or LADO as to any necessary course of action. If it is considered to be necessary or helpful, advice can be sought from our Chair of Trustees or Pastoral Lead at any time.

14.2 Details of all safeguarding issues, including actions taken, should be recorded as soon as possible after the event using the Safeguarding report form in Appendix 2 of this Policy. Records must be kept securely and confidentially in a place agreed by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Records must be accurate and clearly written with a legible date, time and signature.

14.3 In the event that the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Leads are not contactable, this should not delay action being taken to protect a child. In such circumstances, anyone can contact the Chair of Trustees, Pastoral Care Lead or Sheffield Safeguarding Hub on 0114 273 4855.

If there are any concerns about the immediate safety of a child or young person then the police must be contacted on 999 without delay.

14.4 If there is risk of harm or a safeguarding concern about the behavior of an adult member or volunteer, this should be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and/or police within 24 hours. The LADO for Sheffield can be contacted on 0114 273 4850.

15. Contact Details

The Safeguarding Team

Angela Holman *Designated Safeguarding Lead*

Email: angela@steelcitychoristers.org.uk Telephone: 07985 925570

Jeremy Dawson *Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead*

Email: jeremy@steelcitychoristers.org.uk Telephone: 07801 868218

Gill O'Connell *Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead*

Email: gill@steelcitychoristers.org.uk Telephone: 07796 898044

Chair of Trustees

Kate Caroe

Email: kate@steelcitychoristers.org.uk Telephone: 07790 869278

Pastoral Care Lead

Joy French

Email: joy@stjb.org.uk Telephone: 07496 531257

External Safeguarding Contacts

- Sheffield Safeguarding Hub Telephone: 0114 273 4855
- Sheffield Safeguarding Adults Partnership Telephone: 0114 273 4908
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Telephone: 0114 273 4850
- Childline Telephone: 0800 1111
- NSPCC Telephone: 0808 800 500

Emergency Contacts

If there is an immediate risk of harm please telephone 999. Use this number if a crime is happening immediately, someone is in immediate danger, or if there is a risk of serious damage to property or person.

For non-emergency calls to the Police please telephone 101. Use this number to report a crime which is not currently in progress, give information to the Police about a crime in your area, or speak to the Police about a general enquiry.

Appendix 1: Accident/Incident Report Form

Your name:	
Your role:	
Date & time of completing form:	
Location of accident/incident:	
Date and time of accident/incident:	
Your signature:	
Details of incident: Record as factually as possible including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who was involved• What happened• Details of any injuries• Any first aid administered• Whether any other medical attention was sought• Who witnessed the accident/incident It is appropriate to offer opinions where relevant (e.g. how and why the incident may have happened). However any opinion should be substantiated. <i>Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.</i>	

Appendix 2: Safeguarding Report Form

Name of person/s this report relates to:	
Date & time of completing form:	
Your name:	
Your role:	
Your signature:	
Details of issue: Record as factually as possible including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What happened• Where• When• What actions have been taken- including details of anyone to whom information has been passed• Details of anyone involved in the incident/ allegedly involved and witnesses to the incident It is appropriate to offer opinions where relevant (e.g. how and why the incident may have happened). However any opinion should be substantiated. <i>Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.</i>	