

LOVENY MALE VOICE CHOIR SAFEGUARDING POLICY

LEGAL CONTEXT

The law requires any organisation involving children, young people and vulnerable adults to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risk of harm to their welfare and the welfare of all others involved in their activities is minimised, and where there are concerns, to share them with other local agencies.

The main laws and sources of guidance supporting this policy are:

- Children Act 2004
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) d
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Government guidance on safeguarding children
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- NSPCC (www.nspcc.org.uk)
- ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ 2018
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Loveny Male Voice Choir recognises that it is not our role to decide whether a child young person 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.

In this context, anyone who has not reached their eighteenth birthday 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.

BACKGROUND

Loveny Male Voice Choir is a registered charity (Reg. no. 284151) managed by a Committee of volunteers elected at the Annual General Meeting. To carry out its charitable objects it presents several concerts a year, sometimes performing with orchestral groups, soloists, and other choirs. Loveny Male Voice Choir employs a musical director and an accompanist who are not members of

the choir. They attend weekly rehearsals with members to prepare for the concerts. From time to time Loveny Male Voice Choir organises social events, and outings. Loveny Male Voice Choir does not advertise itself as an activity suitable for children or vulnerable adults. Most choir members are independent adults and generally there are no members under the age of 18. Nevertheless, Loveny Male Voice Choir recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of young people and children with whom it works and comes into contact, and believes all participating young people have the right to enjoy the activities of the Choir in a happy, safe, and secure environment.

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. Loveny Male Voice Choir is therefore unlikely to be targeted by a person seeking opportunities to abuse children or vulnerable adults. Nonetheless, we recognise the need to safeguard any young and vulnerable members and the Committee has therefore agreed the following Safeguarding Policy.

As a matter of good practice Loveny Male Voice Choir has developed this policy to provide:

- protection for children with whom Loveny Male Voice Choir has contact.
- guidance to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised.
- guidance on procedures that should be adopted in the event that any adult suspects a child may be experiencing or be at risk of experiencing harm.

POLICY

1. Loveny Male Voice Choir (which includes all members) acknowledge that they have a duty to take reasonable steps to protect those who are involved in or affected by our activities, particularly if they are children or vulnerable adults, from all forms of abuse including emotional physical and psychological abuse.

2.1. The child / vulnerable adult's parent or guardian must provide written permission for their child/vulnerable adult to take part on Loveny MVC activities. A consent form for this purpose will be provided by the Loveny MVC Secretary. When completed the form will be retained by Loveny MVC's Secretary.

2.2. The parent or guardian retains full responsibility for the child/vulnerable adult's transport arrangements to and from rehearsals and the venues for performances or activities.

2.3. Rehearsals and other activities will be conducted in an open environment to avoid private or unobserved situations. Adult members (other than a parent or guardian) should ensure that they are not alone with a young person/vulnerable adult.

3. Loveny Male Voice Choir will publicise its safeguarding policy on its website www.lovenymvc.co.uk and draw it to the attention of members at the beginning of each Annual General Meeting.

4. Young people and vulnerable adults will be welcome to participate in choral works with Loveny Male Voice Choir or as instrumentalists, as long as they are accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult who remains responsible for them throughout rehearsals and performances.

5. Loveny Male Voice Choir have nominated the following Named People:-

Glyn Pascoe (Mobile. 07813-643601, email glynpascoe@me.com)

John Cavill (Mobile. 07889-111058, email john.cavill@me.com)

6. Choir members will report any concerns to one of the Named People.

7. In the absence of the Named People the matter should be reported to the Local Authority:-

Cornwall Safeguarding Adults Board	0300-1234-131 Option 3
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Cornwall Adult Safeguarding Triage Team	01872-326433
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CIOS Safeguarding Children Partnership	01872-224552
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8. A permanent confidential record will be kept of any complaint and its outcome.

9. The policy and procedures will be reviewed annually at a Committee meeting.