



# Midlands Area Regional Brass Band Committee

## Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

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## Terms

The Midlands Area: The Midlands Regional Qualifying Championships of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain.

The Committee: The Midlands Area Regional Brass Band Committee.

## Definitions

A child in this policy is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years.

A Vulnerable Adult is defined in accordance with The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) Order 2002 as a person aged 18 years or over who has a condition of the following type:

- (i) A substantial learning or physical disability,
- (ii) A physical or mental illness or mental disorder, chronic or otherwise, including any addiction to alcohol or drugs, or
- (iii) A significant reduction in physical or mental capacity.

## Safeguarding

There is no legal definition of safeguarding of children. However, in this policy, any references to safeguarding are in keeping with the Government report in 2006, Making Safeguarding Everyone's Business, in which there was a shift in emphasis from protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm, to preventing abuse and neglect in the first instance. The Care Act 2014 defines safeguarding of adults as protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Therefore, safeguarding is defined here as both safeguarding and promoting welfare together, through:

- (i) Protecting children and vulnerable adults from maltreatment
- (ii) Preventing impairment of children and vulnerable adults' health and/or development; and
- (iii) Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care to enable them to have optimum life chances such that they enter adulthood successfully.

## Responsible Officer

For each area contest, the Regional Committee will appoint a Responsible Officer for Safeguarding who may be contacted through Contest Control

## Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct applies to all people coming into contact with children and vulnerable adults.

- Avoid unnecessary physical contact.
- Avoid taking a child or vulnerable adult alone in a vehicle on journeys, however short.



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- If you find you are in a situation where you are alone with a child or vulnerable adult, wherever practical make sure that others can clearly observe you.
- Avoid close personal relationships with a child or vulnerable adult in relation to whom they are in a position of trust.
- Never make suggestive or inappropriate remarks to or about a child or vulnerable adult even in fun, as this could be misinterpreted.
- If a child or vulnerable adult accuses a person of abuse or inappropriate behaviour this should be reported immediately (see Reporting Concerns).
- The duty to report applies equally to complaints or accusations of historic, and not just recent, abuse/inappropriate behaviour.
- Recipients of any complaint or accusation from a child or vulnerable adult, must listen without making or implying any judgment as to the trust of the complaint or accusation.
- If a child or vulnerable adult makes a complaint, or if there are other reasons for suspecting abuse, this should be reported immediately to the designated persons for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.
- All people coming into contact with children and vulnerable adults should remember that those who abuse children and vulnerable adults can be of any age (even other children and vulnerable adults), gender, ethnic background or class, and it is important not to allow personal preconceptions about people to prevent appropriate action taking place.
- Good practice includes valuing and respecting children and vulnerable adults as individuals, and the adult modelling of appropriate conduct, which would exclude bullying, aggressive behaviour, and discrimination in any form.

Those dealing with any allegations of abuse or misconduct should adhere to the principles set out in the policy.

Any information received should be acted upon sensitively, effectively, and efficiently.

Wherever possible, those making allegations should be given information about the outcome.

### Reporting Concerns

- Concerns should be reported immediately to the Responsible Officer, or in their absence the Regional Secretary, Chair or if necessary, any member of *The Committee*.
- Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone other than those named on this document unless specifically requested by the child or vulnerable adult involved.
- All reports, including electronic reports, should be kept in a locked or secure place. Reports should be kept for a minimum of 5 years.
- The Responsible Officer will contact the local Social Services or police as relevant in cases of sexual or physical abuse, injury, or neglect. In other circumstances, they may liaise with the parent or responsible adult.



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- If the concern relates to a member of *The Committee*, they may be suspended whilst the matter is investigated as a non-judgmental act to protect themselves and the child or vulnerable person.

### BoPA

*The Committee* will comply with all legislation governing the Body of Persons Approval (BoPA), working with the appropriate authorities. Details of the BoPA for each *Midlands Area* contest will be published on the website.

### Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Last Reviewed 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026