



Chilli Road Band

Safety and Protection Policy

Children and Vulnerable Adults

Policy Statement

The Chilli Road Band is a community music organisation that includes adults, children and young people. Younger members of the band usually attend with older siblings and/or parents who are also band members. We take every reasonable step to provide an environment that ensures that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe from physical, emotional and sexual abuse. We will respond to any suspicion or allegation of abuse in a way which respects the child or vulnerable adult's rights, and reinforces the responsibilities of adult workers and band members to the children.

Policy Aims

- To ensure that all children and vulnerable adults have appropriate safety and protection when participating in Chilli Road Band activities
- To support paid workers and other adult band members to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues

Good Practice Guidelines

- Always work in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication
- Treat all young people/disabled adults with respect and dignity
- Maintain a safe and appropriate distance
- Build balanced relationships based on mutual trust and empowering children to share in decision making
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults and not push them against their will

Practices to be avoided

The following should be avoided except in emergencies. If a case arises where these situations are unavoidable (eg the child sustains an injury and needs to go to hospital, or a parent fails to arrive to pick a child up at the end of a session), it should be with the full knowledge and consent of one of the band's officers or the child's parents.

Otherwise, avoid:

- Spending time alone with children away from others.
- Taking or dropping off a child to an event
- Other situations where an adult is working alone with a child/children

We should never:

- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching

- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged

Paid and Voluntary Workers

All potential workers will be required to provide references (that we will follow up), attend interview and be DBS checked.

Designated Person

One of the adult members of the band will be named as the 'designated person' who will take responsibility for ensuring that this policy is updated as necessary, that everyone is aware of it, and that it is adopted whenever there are accidents or allegations. If this person cannot be present at a particular band activity, then other committee members will take this responsibility.

The designated person will have contact details of all band members at all practices and performances. In the case of children or vulnerable adults the designated person will also have details of who to contact in the case of an emergency.

Accidents and Injuries

- If a child or vulnerable adult is injured whilst in a Chilli Road Band activity a record will be made in the accident book, which is kept by the designated person
- The event should also be recorded at the site in the school or other venue where the injury takes place
- If a child or vulnerable adult arrives at a Chilli Road Band activity with a physical injury this should also be recorded and the designated person informed

Allegations

If a child confides in one of the workers or other adult members, this procedure should be followed:

- Listen carefully to what is said
- Do not promise to keep it a secret - gently but firmly make it clear that you have to share the information
- Reassure the child that they did the right thing
- Tell them what you are going to do next
- Speak immediately to the designated person
- Record your observations in writing
- Parents should be informed, unless the child is accusing their parent of being the perpetrator of the abuse

It is not the designated person's responsibility to decide if abuse has taken place. If the concerns are about poor practice and there is no specific allegation of sexual abuse being made, then the situation will be discussed by the Chilli Road Band's committee within one week and any actions or ongoing monitoring put in place. If there is a specific accusation or complaint being made then the designated person or their deputy will;

- Discuss actions with parents unless the allegation is made against them
- During daytime hours contact the Initial Response Service on 0191 **277 2500** or out of hours contact the Emergency Duty Team on 0191 **278 7878**.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-social-care/child-protection>