

SAFEGUARDING POLICY - Towcester Choral Society (TCS)

Procedures and ground rules: A further document – ‘Safeguarding Ground Rules, ways of working and procedures’ forms part of this policy.

1. Introduction and scope

Towcester Choral Society (TCS) believes that any child, young person or adult at risk should never experience abuse of any kind. We recognise that we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk. We are committed to safeguarding the well-being of all children, young people and adults at risk we come into contact with and to protecting them from harm.

- This policy applies to members, contractors, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of TCS or taking part in TCS activities.
- This policy defines vulnerable people as:
 - Children up to the age of 16
 - Young people aged 16-18
 - Adults aged over 18 defined as vulnerable by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. This might include adults with a learning or physical disability, a physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs, or reduced physical or mental capacity. This policy also recognises risk is determined by the activity an adult is taking part in and not solely on the personal characteristics or circumstances of the adult, as such any adult can be at risk, and the risk can be temporary.
- The purpose of this policy is to provide the overarching principles that guide TCS’ approach to the protection of vulnerable people. This policy aims to:
 - Protect vulnerable people who are members of, receive services from, or volunteer for TCS
 - Ensure members and volunteers working with vulnerable people are carefully recruited, and understand and accept responsibility for the safeguarding of those vulnerable people they are interacting with
 - Ensure that safeguarding of vulnerable people is a primary consideration when TCS undertakes any activity, event or project.

2. How TCS might work with vulnerable people

- TCS does not undertake events where TCS has responsibility for the safeguarding of children. Where we participate in events involving children (whether as performers, audience members, or in any other capacity) the responsibility for safeguarding the children will always lie with others e.g. teachers, parents / guardians. During the planning of the event this allocation of responsibility will be made clear to the person(s) responsible for the welfare of the children so that there is no doubt on this matter.

- TCS membership is open to those over 16 years of age. We run rehearsals for members and put on concerts for the general public. Our involvement with vulnerable people might include, but is not limited to:
 - Members who attend rehearsals and concerts
 - Relatives and friends of members who attend rehearsals and concerts as a volunteer
 - Audience members at public concerts

3. **Named safeguarding officer**

- is the named TCS safeguarding officer with responsibility for safeguarding issues. All queries and concerns relating to safeguarding should be referred to in the first instance.
- Any projects, events or other activities that will involve vulnerable people must be planned with the involvement of the safeguarding officer and in line with established ground rules, ways of working and procedures (a separate document but which forms an integral part of this policy).