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# Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for the British Methodist Youth Choir (BMYC)

This policy was agreed at a BMYC Committee meeting held on ......

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The BMYC is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

The BMYC recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

The BMYC fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

The BMYC recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

The BMYC commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

The BMYC commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The BMYC commits itself to the provision of support and advice for choir members that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

## a) Purpose

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010).

#### b) Good Practice

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the BMYC should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen.
- iii) Any BMYC organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate.
- iv) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

## c) Safeguarding during a Choir Event

The following will be implemented at all BMYC Events

- i) The host church will be advised in advance if a 16 or 17 year old is attending.
- ii) In the event that a 16 or 17 year old choir member is in the visiting choir group it is the responsibility of the host church to ensure that a host family is identified where at least one member of the household has had a recent CRB check and will be at home when the 16 or 17 year choir member is staying.
- iii) The Choir Administrator will nominate a senior choir member of the same sex to accompany the young person, and it is acceptable for these two people to share a room.
- iv) There will be at least one male and one female senior member of the choir or the choir committee at every event who has been CRB checked. Due to the nature of the choir it is acceptable for this CRB check to be completed for other organisations.

## d) Complaints procedure

If a complaint is made they should make it to a current member of the choir's committee who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, it can be escalated to the choir president or administrator, who may if required invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church.

#### e) Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the BMYC AGM. The date of the next review is February 2014.

#### f) Key concepts and definitions

- i) Vulnerable Adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
- ii) Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Dated	
Signed	 BMYC Administrator