



St Albans City Band

Safeguarding policy

Note: This policy has been drawn up following the guidance from Brass Bands England's Bandsafe programme.

Date: May 2023

Review date: May 2024

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| The purpose of this policy:..... | 2 |
| Legal framework..... | 2 |
| Safeguarding | 3 |
| Procedures to implement DBS checks | 4 |
| How this Policy impacts on St Albans City Band | 5 |
| Useful contact details:..... | 6 |

St Albans City Band

Safeguarding policy

This policy applies to all members, volunteers or anyone working on behalf of St Albans City Band.

The purpose of this policy:

1. To protect children, young people and adults with care and support needs who are members of the band or connected to the band in some other way.
2. To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

St Albans City Band believes that a child, young person or adult with care and support needs should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children and adults at risk, namely:

- Children Act (1989)
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child (1991)
- Data Protection Act (1998) and subsequent data protection guidance
- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Children Act (2004)
- Protection of Freedoms Act (2012)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government (2018)
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- The Human Rights Act (1998)
- The Children and Families Act (2014)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years. Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government (2014)
- General Data Protection Regulations (European Union) (2017)
- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government (2015)
- The Care Act (2014)

- The Care Act (2014) Care and Support Statutory Guidance (specifically the safeguarding section of this)
- The Mental Capacity Act (2005)

Safeguarding

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act (1989);
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues; and
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

In addition, bands are aware that they also have safeguarding responsibilities towards adult members, some of whom may be vulnerable at different times in their lives. The principles outlined above in relation to children, also apply to our work with adults. In terms of a legal framework, the arrangements for those over 18 are governed by the Care Act 2014. This Act stipulates that statutory safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has care and support needs, and
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and,
- as a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

We will seek to keep children, young people and adults safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them, ensuring that, in the case of adults, we work with their consent unless 'vital interests' [as defined in the Data Protection Act (1998)] are at stake, or the person has been assessed as lacking mental capacity [as defined in the Mental Capacity Act (2005)];
- adopting child protection and adult safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for and members and volunteers;
- ensuring that our governance arrangements reflect our commitment to safeguarding
- working to ensure that there is a safe culture within our band
- developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures;
- providing effective support and training for volunteers with responsibility;
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made;
- sharing information about child protection and adult safeguarding with children, parents, volunteers and members;

- sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.

Our safeguarding policy in practice

In order to provide young and vulnerable people with the best possible experience and opportunities in brass banding with St Albans City Band, everyone must operate within an accepted ethical framework and demonstrate exemplary behaviour. Not only will this allow brass banding to make a positive contribution to the development of young or vulnerable members of the Band and safeguard their welfare, but it also protects all personnel from the risk of false allegations of abuse or poor practice.

It is not always easy to distinguish poor practice from abuse, whether intentional or accidental. It is not therefore the responsibility of members or participants in the Band to make judgements about whether or not abuse is taking place. It is, however, their responsibility to identify poor practice and potential abuse and to act if they have concerns about the welfare of a young or vulnerable person. The sections below are not intended to be definitive or conclusive but will us to identify what is meant by good practice, poor practice, and abuse.

Where circumstances arise where it is impractical to avoid any of the situations mentioned above, they should only occur with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge in the organisation and the young or vulnerable person's parent or carer.

If, during your care of a child, you accidentally hurt them, the child appears distressed in any manner, or misunderstands or misinterprets something you have said or done, you must report any such incidents as soon as possible to a committee member and make a brief written note of it. The Band Safeguarding Officer will then ensure that parents are informed of the incident where appropriate.

Procedures to implement DBS checks

The Band members who need to be vetted are all persons (including non-member helpers) who will have significant access to young or vulnerable persons, and as directed by the Committee. The Band Safeguarding Officer will keep a record of all such people and ensure that they have been vetted through the DBS.

How this Policy impacts on St Albans City Band

St Albans City Band is a thriving band, whose membership will include some members under the age of 18 years, with the advent of our Youth Band, and with under 18s occasionally playing in our community or training bands.

Illness or other factors may also make a person vulnerable – not always in a way which is immediately obvious.

All adult members of St Albans City Band have responsibility for the safety and protection of any young or vulnerable people who are members of the Band, and should therefore ensure that they follow the good practice outlined in this document which, if followed, also provides protection to members against any allegations relating to poor practice or safeguarding issues.

Paid staff and volunteers will be provided with additional information to assist them in understanding signs of abuse, or that young or vulnerable persons are at risk and may be asked to attend training.

No Band member is to teach or coach any young or vulnerable person on behalf of the Band without prior agreement of the committee and appropriate checks being made. Any such member will need to complete a DBS check. St Albans City Band will ensure that, during any individual tuition and coaching undertaken with a young or vulnerable person in the course of a Band session, an additional adult, (preferably a parent, or a carer) will also be present.

St Albans City Band will ensure that appropriate vetting, including DBS checks, are carried out for everyone involved in training Band members under 18, including tutors and conductors whether paid or volunteers.

If any member takes on the tuition/coaching of a young or vulnerable person in a private capacity, it must be made clear that they are not working on behalf of the Band, and this must not take place during band rehearsal times.

If a young or vulnerable person attends rehearsals or engagements, responsibility for that person must rest ultimately with the parents or carers. Whilst Band members will observe the St Albans City Band Safeguarding Policy and procedures, parents or carers are welcome to remain on site and to satisfy themselves that the young or vulnerable person for whom they have responsibility is safe and their welfare needs met.

In compliance with the recommendations of Brass Bands England, the committee of St Albans City Band has appointed a Safeguarding Officer to advise on compliance with the procedures in the protection policy. The Safeguarding Officer will have the primary responsibility to check that everyone who has significant access to young or vulnerable people within the Band is suitable for that role, has been vetted and a DBS check carried out

where appropriate. The Safeguarding Officer should also undergo the vetting/DBS procedure.

The Safeguarding Officer should not be a co-ordinator, tutor or conductor of any St Albans City Band youth or training band and will act as a focal point for reporting any concerns about poor practice or concern that a child has been placed at risk.

Useful contact details:

Band Safeguarding/Welfare Officer: Jenny Hill

Local police:

- Hertfordshire Constabulary
 - <https://www.herts.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>
 - Call 101 for non-emergency enquiries.
 - Police Station address, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans AL1 3JE

Hertfordshire Local authority children's social care department and adult social care department, including out of hours contacts:

- If you are concerned that abuse could be taking place but there is no immediate danger, please call or visit:
 - Children - [0300 123 4043](tel:03001234043)
 - [Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
 - Adults - [0300 123 4042](tel:03001234042)
 - [Safeguarding Adults at Risk](#)

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk

ChildLine: 0800 1111 (textphone 0800 400 222) or www.childline.org.uk

The Samaritans: <https://www.samaritans.org/>

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

Brass Bands England Safeguarding Officer: 01226 771015

May 2023

Next review: May 2024