

# **CORNWALL YOUTH BRASS BAND**

## **Child Protection Policy and Procedures**

### **Child Protection Policy**

- 1 Cornwall Youth Brass Band (CYBB) believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all band members by a commitment to a practice which protects them.
  
- 2 We recognise that:
  - The welfare of band members is paramount.
  - All band members regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
  - Working in partnership with band members, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
  
- 3 The purposes of the policy are:
  - To provide protection for band members.
  - To provide trustees, tutors and other volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt if they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm. This policy, therefore, applies to everyone working for or with the band.
  
- 4 We will endeavour to safeguard band members by:
  - Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
  - Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for trustees, tutors and other volunteers.
  - Recruiting trustees, tutors and other volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
  - Sharing information about child protection and good practice with band members, parents, trustees, tutors and other volunteers.
  - Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
  - Providing effective supervision, support and training for trustees, tutors and other volunteers.

### **Code of Conduct**

- 5 Trustees, tutors and voluntary helpers must:
  - Treat all band members with respect.
  - Provide an example of the good conduct you wish others to follow.
  - Ensure that whenever possible there is more than one adult present during activities with band members, or at least that you are within sight or hearing of others.

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- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy, whilst encouraging young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
- Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.
- Be aware that physical contact with a band member may be misinterpreted.
- Recognise that special caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with band members.
- Operate within our principles and guidance and any specific procedures.
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspicions of abuse.

#### 6 You must not:

- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with band members.
- Allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour/make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of band members.
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts.
- Either exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
- Show favouritism to any individual.
- Rely on your good name or that of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band to protect you.
- Take a chance when common sense, policy or practice suggests another more prudent approach.

#### **Abuse**

#### 7 Abuse may take a number of forms, and may be classified under the following headings:

Neglect: This is where adults fail to meet a child's basic needs like food, shelter, warm clothing or medical care, or to protect them from physical harm. Children might also be constantly left alone or unsupervised.

Physical Abuse: This is where someone physically hurts or injures children, for example by hitting, shaking, throwing, squeezing, burning, suffocating and biting or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Giving children alcohol or inappropriate drugs would also constitute physical abuse.

Sexual Abuse: Adults or other children, both male and female, who use children to meet their own sexual needs, can abuse girls and boys. This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation or fondling. Showing children pornographic material is also a form of sexual abuse.

Emotional Abuse: Persistent lack of love and affection, where children may be led to believe that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve the child being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted which may make the child very nervous and withdrawn. It may

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also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. Emotional abuse also occurs when there is constant overprotection, which prevents children from socialising. Emotional abuse in banding might include situations where children are subjected by a parent or tutor to constant criticism, name-calling, sarcasm, bullying, racism or unrealistic pressure in order to perform to high expectations.

**Bullying:** This may be bullying of a child by an adult or another child. Bullying is defined as deliberate hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It may be physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name-calling, graffiti, abusive text messages transmitted by phone or on the internet), emotional (e.g. tormenting, ridiculing, humiliating, ignoring, isolating from the group), or sexual (e.g. unwanted physical contact or abusive comments).

- 8 Indicators of abuse may include one or more of the following:
- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.
  - An injury for which an explanation seems inconsistent.
  - The child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her.
  - Someone else – a child or adult, expresses concern about the welfare of a child.
  - Unexplained changes in a child's behaviour – e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper - or behaviour changing over time.
  - Inappropriate sexual awareness.
  - Engaging in sexually explicit behaviour in games.
  - Distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
  - Difficulty in making friends.
  - Being prevented from socialising with other children.
  - Displaying variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite.
  - Losing weight for no apparent reason.
  - Becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt.
- 9 Signs of bullying may include:
- Behavioural changes such as reduced concentration or becoming withdrawn, clingy, depressed, tearful, emotionally up and down, reluctant to go to band rehearsals or to competitions.
  - An unexplained drop-off in standard of performance.
  - Physical signs such as stomach aches, headaches, difficulty in sleeping, bed-wetting, scratching and bruising, damaged clothes and bingeing on food, cigarettes or alcohol.
  - A shortage of money or frequent loss of possessions.

#### **Responding to Suspicions and Allegations**

- 10 Many cases of child abuse in fact take place within the family setting. However, abuse can and does occur in other situations as well, which may include brass banding or other social activities, and is rarely a one-off event when it occurs within such a setting. It is crucial that those involved in the Band are aware of this possibility and that all

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allegations are taken seriously and appropriate action taken. It is, however, **NOT** the responsibility of anyone in the Band to decide whether or not child abuse is taking place. Our responsibility is to inform appropriate agencies of possible abuse so that they can then make inquiries and take any necessary action to protect the child. This applies both to suspicions of abuse occurring within the Band and to allegations that abuse is taking place elsewhere. This section explains how you should respond to such concerns.

- 11 We may become aware of possible abuse in various ways. We may see it happening ourselves; we may suspect that it is occurring because of signs such as those listed above; it may be reported to us by someone else, or directly by the child affected. In the last of these cases, it is particularly important to respond appropriately. If a child says or indicates that he or she is being abused, or information is obtained which gives you concern that a child is being abused, you should:
- React calmly so as not to frighten the child.
  - Tell the child they are not to blame and that it was right to tell.
  - Take what the child says seriously, recognising the difficulties inherent in interpreting what a child who has a speech disability and/or differences in language says.
  - Keep questions to the absolute minimum necessary to establish that there is a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said, and be careful not to ask leading questions.
  - Reassure the child, but do not promise to keep the matter secret – explain that to resolve the problem it will be necessary to inform other people as appropriate.
- 12 As with other forms of information arising in relation to child protection, information of this kind is highly sensitive and confidential. Accordingly, it should be held under secure conditions and only made available to those who have a definite need for it. You should make a note as soon as possible of whatever information you obtained, both for your own future reference and possibly for passing on to others, appropriate agencies such as the social services department or the police. In writing such a note, you should confine yourself to the facts, and distinguish between what is your own personal knowledge and what you have been told by other people. You should not include your own opinions on the matter, to avoid the possibility of libel. Information should include the following:
- The nature of the allegation, in as much detail as possible, including times, dates, locations and other relevant information
  - Details of the child involved, including name, age, address and other contact details, and identifying who has parental responsibility for the child
  - Details of the person against whom the allegation is made, including name, relationship with the child, age and contact details (if known)
  - The identity and contact details of any informants or other witnesses
  - The child's account, if he or she can give one, of what has happened
  - A description of any visible bruising or other injuries
  - Details of who else has been informed of the alleged incident
  - Any other relevant information

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An example of an incident report for recording such information is set out in Appendix 1. You should report your concerns immediately to a Welfare Trustee. If the allegation is against a Welfare Trustee, you should report the matter to the Chairman of Trustees.

#### **Welfare Trustees**

13 The Welfare Trustees are:

Helen Rowe  
15a Higher Bugle, Bugle, St Austell PL26 8PY  
Telephone 01726 851700

Robert Kitchen  
Boskessy, Cargreen, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6PA  
Telephone 01752 847627

14 The role of the Welfare Trustees is to:

- Receive and record information from trustees, tutors, other volunteers, children or parents and carers who have child protection concerns.
- Assess the information promptly and carefully, clarifying or obtaining more information about the matter as appropriate.
- Consult initially with either the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline (0808 800 5000) or the Joint Consultancy Team (01872 254552) to test out any doubts or uncertainty about the concerns as soon as possible.
- If appropriate, make a formal referral to the social services office that covers the area in which the band member lives.

15 In addition, the Welfare Trustees are responsible for:

- Ensuring that our child protection policy and procedures are followed, in particular our recruitment processes and DBS checking.
- Promoting awareness of the policy within CYBB and amongst band members and the parents and carers.
- Ensuring that trustees, tutors and voluntary helpers are sufficiently trained in child protection matters.
- Keeping the Chairman of Trustees informed about any action taken or further action required, for example, disciplinary action against a trustee, tutor or voluntary helper.
- Ensuring that our child protection policy and procedures remain appropriate and reporting thereon to trustees.

#### **Personnel**

16 Our vetting procedure will be used prior to the appointment of trustees, tutors and voluntary helpers having significant access to band members. Applicants will be required to:

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- Complete a Declaration Form (Appendix 2)
- If not already known to us, permit us to take up two references (Appendix 3)
- Obtain or view an Enhanced DBS Disclosure

17 Anyone who receives an unsatisfactory DBS Disclosure will be given the opportunity to challenge its conclusions and require errors to be corrected. If, however, the Disclosure is not erroneous, the application will not be confirmed and any existing association with the Band will be ended.

18 We will provide pastoral staffing on residential courses from within the board of trustees and (particularly at night) through the use of suitably qualified outside agencies.

**Internet**

19 The CYBB website will not permit direct contact through the website with band members. Welfare Trustees will keep under review the impact (if any) of social media upon this policy and bring forward to trustees such proposals as may be appropriate.

20 Photographs of band members may, with their consent, appear on the website but only without the identification of the band members.

21 The child protection policy and procedures will be added to the website.

**Policy revision**

22 The policy as now revised was approved by trustees on 12 October 2016.

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**INCIDENT REPORT**

Appendix 1

Name of child.....Age/date of birth.....

Parent/carer's name.....

Address.....

Telephone number.....

Are you reporting your own concerns or passing on those of someone else? Give details of witness.

.....  
.....

Brief description of what has prompted concerns: include date, time and location of any specific incidents.

.....  
.....

Any physical signs? Behavioural signs? Indirect signs?

.....  
.....

Have you spoken to the child? If so, what was said?

.....  
.....

Have you spoken to the parent(s)? If so, what was said?

.....  
.....

Has any one been alleged to be the abuser? If so, give details, including relationship to the child.

.....  
.....

Have you consulted anyone? Give detail.

.....  
.....

Your name..... Position.....

Signature.....Date.....

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**DECLARATION FORM**

Appendix 2

United Kingdom legislation and guidance relating to the welfare of children has at its core the principle that the welfare of children and young people must be the paramount consideration. Cornwall Youth Brass Band fully supports this principle and, therefore, we require everyone connected with the Band who will come into contact with band members or their personal details to complete and sign this declaration. This declaration will be kept for as long as you are connected with the Band and for a period of 12 months thereafter.

Has any children's services department, the NSPCC or the police ever conducted an enquiry or investigation into any allegations or concerns that you may pose an actual or potential risk to children or young people?

YES/NO

Have you ever been convicted of any offences relating to children or young people?

YES/NO

Have you ever been the subject of disciplinary procedures or been asked to leave employment or voluntary activity due to inappropriate behaviour towards a child?

YES/NO

This declaration must be signed and returned to Phillip Hunt, 12 Longmeadow Road, Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 6DW, prior to undertaking any work with the Band that would involve contact with band members.

I confirm that the above information given by me is correct and that I consent to my personal data being processed and kept for the purposes described above in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Full name .....

Signature.....Date.....

You are advised that under legislation relating to the Rehabilitation of Offenders you should declare all convictions, including spent convictions.

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**REFERENCE FORM**  
(To appear on our headed notepaper)

Appendix 3

[Insert name ] (the Candidate) has expressed an interest in becoming a [trustee/ tutor/ volunteer helper] of the Band and has given your name as a referee. If you are happy to provide this reference, all the information contained on this form will remain confidential and will not be shared with the Candidate. We would appreciate you being frank in your evaluation of the Candidate. If you prefer to respond by telephone, please contact Phillip Hunt (01752 843919).

How long have you known the Candidate?.....

In what capacity do you know the Candidate?.....

Do you regard the Candidate as a suitable person to work with children?

YES/NO

How would you describe the Candidate's personality?.....

.....

Your name.....

Address.....

Telephone number.....

Signed.....Date.....