

## **Arts Council England Safeguarding Policy Statement**

The Arts Council England's mission is "*Great art and culture for everyone*", and one of our specific goals is to promote opportunities *for every child to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries*. It is essential that every effort is made to ensure that children and adults at risk of abuse can engage with the arts and culture safely, and that there are effective processes and procedures in place to respond to concerns should they arise.

Arts Council England's policy is based upon the principles enshrined within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. What this means in practice is a commitment to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements as set out in the government guidance "[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)"<sup>1</sup> (2015) and the Care Act (2014) where children and adults at risk of abuse are concerned.

The terms and conditions under which Arts Council England provides funding to arts and cultural organisations includes a mandatory requirement to adopt policies and procedures to ensure the safeguarding of children and adults at risk of abuse with whom there is direct contact.

Arts Council England believes that:

- The welfare of a child or adult at risk is paramount;
- All children and adults at risk of abuse, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity have the right to protection;
- All concerns and allegations of abuse must be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- All staff (paid or unpaid) should know how to respond to concerns.

Arts Council England seeks to promote a positive ethos of collaborative work between the professional arts sector and children and/or adults at risk of abuse. We will take every reasonable step to ensure that children and adults at risk of abuse are protected where:

- Our own staff are in the unlikely situation of being directly involved in the delivery of an arts project;
- Our staff recruit or broker relationships between an artist or arts facilitator and a third party; and/or
- We fund an arts/cultural organisation for a programme of work, or for core work.

In relation to safeguarding and protection from abuse, a child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached the age of 18. An adult at risk of abuse is defined by the Care Act (2014) as someone who is experiencing or at risk of abuse and has needs

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

for care and support which means that they are unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

It is the responsibility of the organisations funded by Arts Council England to ensure that their safeguarding policies and procedures are fit for purpose given the specific nature of their work and the manner in which it is conducted and to provide copies of policies and procedures on request.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) [website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/)<sup>2</sup> has an extensive resource library to assist in the development and implementation of good practice safeguarding policies and procedures.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/>