

Northumbrian Pipers' Society

The Safeguarding Policy¹

The scope of this policy.

This policy covers any authorised activity of the Society. It does not extend to private or informal arrangements for teaching, practice or playing together. The Society recommends that people undertaking private teaching of the Pipes or their students, and those who gather for informal sessions of pipe playing make their own Safeguarding arrangements.

The care and protection of children, young people² and vulnerable adults³ involved in the activities of NPS is the responsibility of the whole Society. **Everyone who participates in its activities has a role to play in promoting safer places.**

In following this policy all those responsible for NPS activities are expected to maintain a sense of proportion, apply common sense and do all they can to protect the welfare of children young people and vulnerable adults.

¹Where the NPA delivers an activity that sits under another organisation, this policy becomes secondary to the overarching organisations policy

² 'Children/Young Person' refers to any individual aged 14-17 years old

³ The Society recognises a wide understanding of the term 'Vulnerable Adult' and in this policy it refers to any person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability, or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired.

It is also the Society's duty to advise leaders and volunteers to never be placed in situations where they may be wrongly accused of abuse⁴. This policy should not restrict normal ways of working but ensure that proper and sensible consideration is given to how an action or activity may be perceived as opposed to how it is intended.

This document sets out the Safeguarding policies of the NPS and is complemented by further additions of protocols and guidance. The policy is based on the following overarching principles

- Promoting a safe nurturing environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults in the Society's activities.
- Raising awareness of Safeguarding issues and equipping volunteers, with responsibility in these areas, with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Responding promptly and appropriately to any area of concern or allegation about the safety of the participants in the activities of the society.

Foundations

1. Human Rights and the Law

⁴ There are at least the following main areas of abuse to consider but this list is not exhaustive:

- **Physical abuse** includes hitting, kicking and punching and in serious cases may even lead to death
- **Psychological/Emotional abuse** includes Bullying, threats, humiliation, isolation, harassment, or controlling behaviour, degrading punishments, threats and withholding love and affection, which can undermine a child or young person's confidence. All abuse involves some element of emotional mistreatment
- **Neglect** (including personal neglect) occurs when basic needs such as food, warmth and medical care are not met
- **Sexual abuse** includes all forms of sexual activity where children and young people are sexually exploited. This includes all forms of inappropriate touching, rape and/or oral sex. It also includes inappropriate touching or involvement with activities with which the child feels uncomfortable, or which could be damaging.
- **Financial/material Abuse** Theft, fraud, misuse of property or benefits, or undue pressure to spend money.
- **Domestic Abuse** Controlling, coercive, threatening or violent behaviour by a current or former intimate partner or family member.
- **Discriminatory abuse** Unfair treatment, harassment, or slurs based on race, disability, gender, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

The Society recognises the personal dignity and rights of all children, young people and adults, as enshrined in the:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children Act 2004 (which builds on the 1989 Act)

Safeguarding work is undertaken within a legislative framework supported by government guidance which sets out a range of safeguarding duties, responsibilities and best

2. Core Principles

The following core principles underpin the Society's approach to safeguarding practice

- The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount⁵;
- Integrity, respect and listening to all;
- Transparency and openness;
- Accountability;
- Collaboration with key statutory authorities and other partners;
- Where appropriate to use of professional safeguarding advice and support;
- A commitment to the prevention of abuse;
- The active management of risk;
- Promoting a culture of informed vigilance;

⁵ In the event of any perceived or potential conflict of interest the welfare of any children and young people involved will always take precedence over all adults

- Regular evaluation of best practice. (do, review, improve)

3. Good Safeguarding Practice

The following key features will help the Society promote and maintain a safer culture that protects and promotes the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.⁶

These features are:

- A commitment, at all levels, to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- A safeguarding policy available to all in the Society;
- A clear line of accountability for all activities in relation to safeguarding;
- Clear reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding disclosure, allegations and concerns;
- Clear roles for everyone in responsible positions;
- Practice and services informed by on- going learning, review and by the views of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults;
- Safer recruitment procedures in place for all with responsible positions;
- Clear pathways for support
- Safeguarding training to be made available especially for those with responsible positions.
- Working with appropriate statutory bodies
- Record keeping – time and date of disclosure and action taken.

⁶ These are based on *Safe from Harm*, Home Office, 1993, and the statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

- Well publicised complaint process

Policy Commitments

Based on the foundations outlined above the Society commits to the following:

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture

All those with responsible positions within the Society will respect all children, young people and vulnerable adults and promote their well-being.

The Society will strive to create a culture that supports safety and well-being for all. This will be done by raising awareness to all members, offering training and support. Undergirded by continually developing good practice.

The society will actively support all those with responsibilities to adhere to safer activities.

2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults in the Society's activities.

The Society will follow the recruitment Practice Guidance when appointing anyone with responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Society. It will support and provide guidance all such people appointed to have the appropriate confidence and skills, this will be done through the appointment of two designated officers. Both officers will provide support for each role as required:

- **Safeguarding Officer**(SC) and an Assistant Safeguarding Officer (ASO) to deal with any issues arising from reported cases of abuse or disclosures.

The Society will make sure the role and name of the SO is known throughout the Society.

Ensure safe recruitment practises are followed.

Ensure that all those with responsibility for activities involving Children and Young People understand their responsibilities so as to be alert to signs of abuse and understand their duty to refer concerns to the SO

Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required.

Notify the Statutory Services if a disclosure is made.

Follow procedures where an allegation is made against any member of the Society.

- **Safeguarding Officer (SO) and Assistant Safeguarding Officer(ASO)** to deal with any issues arising from reported cases of abuse or disclosures.

The Society will make sure the role and name of the SO and the ASO is known throughout the Society.

Ensure that all those with responsibility for activities involving Vulnerable Adults understand their responsibilities so as to be alert to signs of abuse and understand their duty to refer concerns to the SO

Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required.

Notify the Statutory Services if a disclosure is made.

Follow procedures where an allegation is made against any member of the Society.

3. Responding promptly and appropriately to every safeguard concern or allegation.

Anyone who brings any safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or non-current abuse to the notice of the Society will be responded to respectfully and in a timely manner, in line with statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures.

All suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations will be where appropriate to the statutory authorities by the designated Safeguarding Officer.

The Safeguarding Officers will cooperate with the statutory authorities in all cases.

Follow procedures where an allegation is made against a responsible person in the Society.

4. Supporting Code of Practice

The Society will develop a Code of Good Practice for the following areas: (This list might not be exhaustive)

- **Recruitment and support of volunteers, mandatory for activity leads**

Risk assessment

DBS and Confidential Declarations

Training, including first aid
Safeguarding Policy with particular reference to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- **Safeguarding for working with Children, Young people or Vulnerable Adults**

Leading a group organised for Children and Young People

Working with Children or young people on a one to one basis

Children and Young People attending a group alongside adults.

Simple protocols on 'best practice'.

Making and dealing with a disclosure

Keeping appropriate records – see earlier

Partnership with statutory Agencies

Important Contact Numbers for Safeguarding Concerns

Safeguarding Officer 07972 259403 Assistant Safeguarding Officer 07538292382

Emergency Services 999

Northumbrian County Council Onecall 01670 536400

Newcastle Council Safeguarding referrals 0191 278 8377 (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm) 0191 278 7878 (Evenings and Weekends)

North Tyneside Safeguarding for Children 0345 2000 109 or out of hours 0330 333 7475

North Tyneside Safeguarding for Adults 0191 643 2777 or out of hours 0330 333 7475

**This Policy was agreed by the NPS Committee on
23 March 2026**