



THE BIG SING

Safeguarding Policy



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS

INTRODUCTION

The BIG Sing UK Ltd operates and runs Community Choirs for adults and some children attend with their parents. The BIG Sing has some 750 active members: amateur singers from all walks of life, all of whom enjoy singing. Each choir usually rehearses once a week in several counties including Essex, Kent, London and the Midlands. Concerts and performances are scheduled throughout the year in each location as well as special events, tours, recordings, and regular concerts.

The BIG Sing is a business with a Christian based ethos. A special feature of the business is our charity arm - The BIG Sing SOUL which stands for Singing Outreach Unity and Love which aims to take uplifting, inspirational and motivational music to groups of children and adults into places where they might not otherwise have such opportunities such as hospitals, prisons, nurseries, schools and care homes. We aim to bring them the joy of singing together in a choir, involving them in the BIG Sing's concerts and developing their own community singing through workshops and joint concerts with The BIG Sing Choirs.

The BIG Sing are committed to promoting the well-being of children and young people in this way, and is well aware of the central importance of the children's welfare and safety.

The BIG Sing acknowledge the responsibility they share with the children's parents, teachers and also carers for the childrens and adults' safety. The company is aware of the possible risks to children and adults in relation to the activities they undertake. These include anything involving the children during choir-related activities, such as travel, rehearsal and performance duration, and standards of health and safety in the buildings used by us.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The BIG Sing are committed to taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised.

The BIG Sing recognises its duty of care towards the children to see that all young people's rights to protection from abuse are upheld.

The BIG Sing recognises that all suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

The BIG Sing accepts that all staff and singing members have a duty of care to abide by this policy and to report concerns. All staff and officers are required to familiarise themselves with this document.

Platform and Purpose

This Safeguarding Policy has been prepared in accordance with legislation, statutory guidance and national/local safeguarding procedures, which relate to the needs of children and vulnerable adults.

Every child or adult can be hurt, put at risk of harm, or abused. The actions we must take to promote their welfare, and protect them from harm, are the responsibility of us all. Everyone who comes into

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contact with children or adults has a role to play. This policy sets out the expectations placed on those working and volunteering within the Big Sing and provides information to ensure that all children and adults are best safeguarded.

'Looking the other way is not an option'; so adopting and putting this policy into practice is essential for all of our Choirs, choir related activities in the community.

Where to find the Policy

Initially printed in hard copy and distributed to every choir leader, the most up to date version of the policy will be available on the big sing website: www.big-sing.com.

News of significant updates will be included in communications when necessary to raise awareness, or emailed directly to choir leaders/members and colleagues whose specific roles are affected.

Relevant information will be updated online, where the policy and associated documents can be downloaded easily for local use, so that it is not necessary to supply large quantities of printed papers, which can become out of date all too quickly.

This policy statement is supplemented by Information Sheets and Procedures relating to particular topics. These are referred to in the policy and are made readily available as downloads from the company drop box.

For those who do not have access to the internet hard copies of the policy and associated documents can be supplied via the Safeguarding Lead or Head Office on request.

Reviewing the Policy

This policy will be formally reviewed every three years, or sooner if changes in the local or national safeguarding agenda require amendments to be made. As part of the formal review information will be collected about what works well, what does not work so well, and what could be improved.

In the meantime, where minor improvements and updates to the policy are needed the online version of the policy will be kept updated.

BIG SING STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The BIG SING is committed, to protect and care for everyone in the choir community, but especially children and vulnerable adults. The BIG SING recognises the legal principle that the welfare of children is paramount and extends this assertion to any adult suffering, or at risk of suffering, abuse.

We will develop a safeguarding culture that:

- Creates an environment where there is awareness and vigilance about the signs, symptoms and impacts of abuse.
- Enables and encourages all concerns or allegations to be raised in order to protect children and adults from harm.
- Ensures all those who work or volunteer on behalf of the BIG SING with children and adults achieve the standards required by this policy.
- Holds to account those in the choir community who disregard the safety and well-being of children and adults.

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To bring this about we will:

- Respond without delay to every disclosure made where there is any suggestion that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed.
- Listen to those who have been abused in the past and take their allegations seriously.
- Recognise all relevant local and national safeguarding guidance in developing best practice guidelines.
- Offer help to all children and adults regardless of race, disability, gender, culture or creed to reduce risk and safeguard from harm.
- Carefully select all candidates for any paid or voluntary role or responsibility within the Big Sing in line with safer recruitment policy and procedure.
- Develop training programmes to equip people with the skills and knowledge they need.
- Ensure up to date information is available through the Big Sing website.
- Monitor safeguarding practice at every level.

Work with those individuals who have criminal convictions, or where other safeguarding risks are identified, in order to protect members of the Big Sing community.

- Have robust and well managed risk assessment procedures.
- Work in partnership with other organisations that protect children and adults from abuse and monitor known offenders in the community.
- Provide support and advice to put the policy into everyday practice.
- Ensure that the best practice becomes the common practice.

The most important point to bear in mind is, if in doubt about any aspect contact the Big Sing safeguarding lead whose job it is to offer advice, guidance and support in all situations in which a child or adult may be at risk. For this purpose, the safeguarding lead can be contacted on:

0333 366 1293 or info@big-sing.com

The BIG Sing and BIG Sing SOUL Safeguarding Policy Executive Summary

September 2024