



Safeguarding at Funnybone Youth Theatre

Introduction:

All staff and volunteers at Funnybone Youth Theatre (FYT) need to be aware of the groups commitment to this policy and understand and adhere to the principles and procedures within the policy.

Funnybone Youth Theatre recognizes that:

- The welfare of children/ young people/ vulnerable adults is paramount.
- That everyone has the right to live a life free from violence and abuse,
- Everyone has a right to be protected from harm and exploitation,
- Not everyone can protect themselves.

The policy has been developed in accordance with the principles set out in the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014.

The purpose of the policy is:

1. to provide a safe environment for children, young people and adults who use Funybone's facilities
2. to provide volunteers with guidance on how to respond to a child, young person, vulnerable adult who discloses abuse, or for whom they have a concern,
3. to know the procedure to be followed in appropriately sharing a concern of possible abuse or a disclosure of abuse.
4. to draw attention to the responsibility of groups using the centre to have their own safeguarding policy in place especially in relation to children and young people. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

5. to assure patrons of FYT that any information sharing regarding safeguarding will involve the necessary individual, and the safeguarding agencies, on a need to know basis.

What is abuse?

Abuse is the actual harm or exploitation of a person, including the maltreatment of a child. A child is anyone between the ages of unborn to 18 years. Abuse can be a single act or repeated acts. It can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to/ exploitation of the individual exposed to it.

The categories of abuse are defined as follows and defined in the Care Act (2014) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015):

- **Physical Abuse:** includes assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, restraint, inappropriate sanctions, and mis-use of medicine.
- **Psychological/Emotional Abuse:** includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation, humiliation, blaming, coercion, cyber bullying, isolation, verbal abuse, controlling, and intimidation.
- **Sexual Abuse:** includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking/touching, sexual innuendo, teasing, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the individual has not consented or was coerced into.
- **Neglect including acts of Omission:** includes ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, the failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support, educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life e.g. medication, adequate heating and nutrition. **Self -neglect** too – personal hygiene, appearance, and any behaviour that can cause risk of harm e.g. hoarding.
- **Domestic Abuse:** includes: controlling and coercive behaviour, psychological, physical, sexual, financial abuse and 'honour – based' violence.
- **Financial/Material Abuse:** Includes coercion to take extortionate loans and threats to recover debt, theft, fraud, internet scamming; coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements. This includes wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions,

or the mis-use or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

- **Modern Slavery:** includes human trafficking, slavery, forced labour and domestic servitude.
- **Discriminatory Abuse:** includes forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment due to race, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **Organisational Abuse:** includes neglect and poor care practice within a specific care setting e.g. hospital, care home or in relation to the care given in one's own home. It can range from neglect to poor professional practice.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing.

- All matters relating to safeguarding are confidential. However, no guarantees that information will remain confidential should be made to the individual making a disclosure.
- Volunteers cannot promise confidentiality/keep secrets which might compromise an individual's safety or well-being.
- Information Sharing is very important in safeguarding.
- Remember you will need consent to share information & consider capacity.
- Volunteers at FYT need to be aware that they have a responsibility to share information with other agencies on a 'need to know' basis in order to safeguard individuals.

Dealing With Disclosures.

If a disclosure of alleged abuse is made to a volunteer at FYT, it is not their responsibility to investigate the allegation. Other agencies are trained to do this. However, it would be helpful to obtain the following information:

1. The details of the person making the disclosure e.g. name, address, age.
2. The person they allege to be the abuser.
3. The type of abuse.
4. Where the abuse has taken place?
5. When did the abuse take place?

6. Whether or not consent has been obtained from the individual at risk.
7. Make contact with a Safeguarding Lead Person/s within FYT who will help them take the matter forward in contacting the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) on 0300 1231 116.
8. An Inter-Agency Safeguarding Referral Form will be required to follow up the phone call. These can be found in the safeguarding folder.
9. The Safeguarding Lead Persons are:
 - Ken Jones
 - Ali Worth
 - Paul Hupfield

The information provided by a FYT volunteer to the MARU will be acted upon in accordance with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults and Children's Policy in Cornwall.

FYT volunteers need to apply this procedure in practice and is a condition of service with FYT that volunteers understand and operate the policy fully.

Out of Hours

If there is a need to make a safeguarding alert **out of normal operating hours** then the alert needs to be made direct to the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU). Telephone: **01208 251 300 (Emergency Duty Service) and 0300 1231 116** during the working day.

N.B. Safeguarding is everyone's business. Anyone can make a referral to MARU if they have safeguarding concerns about an individual.

Funnybone Youth Theatre, July 2018.