

THE CHANTRY CENTRE VULNERABLE BENEFICIARIES POLICY



1.0 Statement of Intent

The Chantry Centre is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults. All provision by The Chantry Centre will consider the needs of children and vulnerable adults.

The Chantry Centre recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 2014, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999 and the criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

The Chantry Centre recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The Chantry Centre is committed to practice which protects children and vulnerable adults from harm.

Children are classified as those who are 18 or under. Vulnerable adults include those who may be unable to take care of themselves against abuse through, for example, mental health, disability, illness, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or economic status.

The Chantry Centre believes that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse with respect to children or vulnerable adults should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

2.0 Trustees, Employees and Volunteers

Trustees and employees of the Chantry Centre who may come into contact with children or vulnerable adults will be required to be DBS checked at a minimum every three years.

All new Volunteers will be subject to an interview by a Trustee, informal background checks and supervised volunteering prior to being permitted to Volunteer on an unaccompanied basis.

Trustees, Employees and Volunteers need to be aware that

- They should not be left alone with children or vulnerable adults and to ensure that where possible, there will be two adults in a room when working with children.
- They should not offer lifts to children or young adults if they will be alone with them.
- They should ensure that consent is obtained from the parent or guardian prior to using photographs of children or vulnerable young adults in any publicity or photographs offered to the media.
- They should take care to treat staff or volunteers who are under 18 according to this policy.
- They should ensure that action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- They should ensure that children or vulnerable adults cannot be traced by ensuring that names and addresses are stored securely and are not available to those who visit the Centre or who volunteer to help at the centre.

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3.0 Community Groups Hiring the Chantry Centre

Many of the activities held at the Chantry Centre which may include children or vulnerable adults are organised local community groups or organisations which simply hire the Chantry Centre – often without a Chantry Centre member of staff or volunteer bring on site. It shall be the responsibility of such groups to have their own, appropriate, safeguarding policies.

For the avoidance of doubt the Chantry Centre does not have the skills to review such policies but its terms and conditions of hire will raise awareness for such hirers of the need for suitable measures to protect children and vulnerable adults.

4.0 Private Hires

The Chantry Centre is available for hire by individuals for private parties – including children's parties. An adult shall always be identified as being responsible for the child – in most cases this will be the child's carer but, in some cases it may be the party host/organiser.

The Chantry Centre will raise awareness to hirers of the need for suitable measures to protect children and vulnerable adults through its terms and conditions of hire.

4.0 Chantry Centre Managed Events

The Chantry Centre also arranges events for the local community which may be attended by children and/or vulnerable adults – e.g. soft play sessions, a warm welcome.

Every care will be taken to ensure that such events will be arranged with consideration for the need of children and/or vulnerable adults where required including a clearly stated requirement that children are at all times accompanied by an adult.

During such events trustees, employees and volunteers need to be particularly aware of matters raised in Section 2.0.

5.0 Management and Responsibilities

A nominated Trustee of the Chantry Centre shall be the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In the absence of a nominated Trustee it shall be the Chair.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead shall ensure that Trustees, Staff and Volunteers understand their roles and responsibilities under this policy and are provided with suitable opportunities to learn how to recognise, identify and respond to potential concerns.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead shall undertake safeguarding risk assessments if it is deemed necessary for any particular activity at the Chantry Centre.

The Chair of the Charity (or if not available, the Vice-Chair) will respond swiftly if any suspicions or allegations of abuse are made, handling this with sensitivity (including protecting the interests of the whistle blower) and ensuring that the right agencies are involved.

Trustees, Employees and Volunteers shall familiarise themselves with this policy.

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Any breach of this policy by an individual or organisation shall be considered by the Chair and Designated Safeguarding Lead on a case-by-case basis.

6.0 Policy Review

The policy will be regularly monitored by The Chantry Centre and will be subject to annual review.