

## **St Peter's Singers of Leeds Safeguarding Policy – overview**

### **Commitment to safeguarding**

St Peter's Singers of Leeds (hereafter "St Peter's Singers") believes that a child, young person or adult at risk should never experience abuse of any kind. We recognise that we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk. We are committed to safeguarding the well-being of all children, young people and adults at risk we come into contact with and to protecting them from harm.

### **About this policy**

- This policy applies to St Peter's Singers of Leeds employees, all choir members (including trustees), volunteers and all others invited to perform or work with St Peter's Singers.  
The purpose of this policy is to provide members, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of all vulnerable people
- This policy recognises vulnerable people as:
  - Children up to the age of 16 or young people aged 16-18.
  - Adults aged over 18 at risk as defined by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. This might include adults with a learning or physical disability, a physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs, or reduced physical or mental capacity. This policy also recognises risk is determined by the activity an adult is taking part in and not solely on the personal characteristics or circumstances of the adult, as such any adult can be at risk, and the risk can be temporary.
- This policy aims to:
  - Protect children, young people and adults at risk who are members of, receive services from, or volunteer for, St Peter's Singers.
  - Ensure members, staff and volunteers working with children, young people and adults at risk are carefully recruited and understand and accept responsibility for the safeguarding of those vulnerable individuals they are interacting with.
  - Ensure that safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk is a primary consideration when St Peter's Singers undertakes any activity, event or project.

St Peter's Singers will publicise its Safeguarding Policy on its website [www.stpeters-singers.org.uk](http://www.stpeters-singers.org.uk) and draw it to the attention of members when they join the choir.

### **How St Peter's Singers operates**

St Peter's Singers is a registered charity of about 40 amateur Choral Singers managed by a committee of volunteers elected at the annual general meeting or co-opted as necessary. Some committee members are trustees of the charity. To carry out its charitable objects it presents a number of concerts a year sometimes performing with orchestral groups, professional soloists and other choirs. Rehearsals are run by our self-employed Musical

Director or a substitute on occasion, occasionally with an accompanist. They attend weekly rehearsals with members in term time in order to prepare for the concerts. There are no employed staff or volunteers in the conventional sense. From time to time St Peter's Singers organises other events such as choral workshops and social events.

St Peter's Singers does not advertise itself as an activity suitable for children, young people or vulnerable adults. Most choir members are independent adults. Occasionally a young person (aged 16-18) may join the choir to gain choral experience before moving on to University. Choir rehearsals and performances are group activities, and there is no need for a member of the choir to be alone with another member of any age. St Peter's Singers is therefore unlikely to be targeted by a person seeking opportunities to abuse children or vulnerable adults. Nevertheless, St Peter's Singers recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults with whom it works and comes into contact, and believes that everyone has the right to enjoy the activities of the Choir in a happy, safe and secure environment.

St Peter's Singers may occasionally appear in or organise concerts where a children's choir also performs.

### **How St Peter's Singers might work with vulnerable people**

We run regular rehearsals for members and put on concerts for the general public. As such our involvement with vulnerable people might include, but is not limited to:

- Members of the group who attend rehearsals and concerts
- Relatives and friends of members who attend rehearsals and concerts in a volunteering capacity
- Audience members at public concerts

### **Named safeguarding person**

Heather Pennwood has responsibility for safeguarding issues. All queries and concerns relating to safeguarding should be referred to Heather Pennwood in the first instance.

Any projects, events or other activities that will involve vulnerable people must be planned with the involvement of Heather Pennwood and in line with established procedures and ground rules (see below).

### **Procedures and ground rules**

A further document – 'Ground rules, ways of working and procedures' is available and forms part of this policy.

### **Policy review**

This policy will be reviewed and amended (if necessary) on an annual basis by the committee. It will also be reviewed in response to changes in relevant legislation, good practice, or in response to an identified failing in its effectiveness.