

## **Safeguarding Policy – Stroud Symphony Orchestra – Overview**

**Commitment to safeguarding:** Stroud Symphony Orchestra 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; all members, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of Stroud Symphony Orchestra or taking part in Stroud Symphony Orchestra activities.
- The purpose of this policy is to provide members 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, Stroud Symphony Orchestra.
  - Ensure members 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 Stroud Symphony Orchestra undertakes any activity, event or project.

**How Stroud Symphony Orchestra might work with vulnerable people:** membership is open to those over 16 years of age. 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 orchestra 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:** **Alison Wood** has responsibility for safeguarding issues. All queries and concerns relating to safeguarding should be referred to Alison in the first instance.

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

**Procedures and ground rules:** A later section of this document – ‘Ground rules, ways of working and procedures’ forms part of this policy.

**Policy review:** This policy will be reviewed and amended (if necessary) on an annual basis by the orchestra’s 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.

# **Safeguarding policy – Stroud Symphony Orchestra**

## **Ground Rules, Ways of Working and Procedures**

This document describes the Stroud Symphony Orchestra Safeguarding policy.

- The policy applies to: all members, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of Stroud Symphony Orchestra or taking part in Stroud Symphony Orchestra activities.
- The purpose of this policy is to provide members and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of 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 including those defined as vulnerable 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 document comprises:

- Ground rules and ways for working regarding safeguarding of vulnerable people
- Procedures for raising safeguarding concerns and incidents of abuse
- Procedures for dealing with concerns and incident of abuse

### **A. Ground rules and ways for working regarding safeguarding of vulnerable people**

**When** Stroud Symphony Orchestra organises an activity or event where they will be responsible for vulnerable people they will ensure:

- Planning is carried out in line with this policy and procedures.
- There is a main contact for safeguarding on the day.
- A vulnerable person is not be left alone with a single adult, unless that adult is the safeguarding contact for the day.
- Two adults should be the last to leave a venue once the activity has finished and will be responsible for ensuring vulnerable people get home safely.

**Working with parents/guardians:** If a vulnerable person wishes to take part in Stroud Symphony Orchestra activities written permission (email is fine) should be obtained from parents/guardians where appropriate, and before the activity takes place. Written permission should include: emergency contact details of any relevant pick-up arrangements – including permission for another adult to pick up the vulnerable person after the activity has finished.

### **B. Procedure for raising safeguarding concerns and incidents of abuse**

- If any member, staff or volunteer in Stroud Symphony Orchestra witnesses, suspects or is informed of a witnessed or suspected case of abuse they should immediately report it to the named safeguarding officer, Alison Wood
- If the named person is not available, or is involved in or connected to, the abuse, it should be reported to the orchestra's chair
- If an individual wishes to report an incident of abuse against themselves they should report it to the named safeguarding officer or an individual they trust.

## C. Procedures for dealing with concerns and incidents of abuse

The Named Safeguarding Person (or person reported to in their absence) will first make a decision based on the immediacy of the concern and the following two factors:

- If the vulnerable person is in immediate danger or needs emergency medical attention – call the police and/or ambulance service.
- If the person at the centre of the allegation is working with vulnerable persons at the current time – remove them, in a sensitive manner, from direct contact with vulnerable people and follow the procedures below.

If none of the above applies the named person will:

- Make a note of the concerns reported to them.
- Speak with the chair of the orchestra and/or other committee members to decide how to handle the reported abuse, excluding any committee member who is involved in the incident.
- Escalate the report by either:
  - Raising concerns with the police – for serious or possible criminal offences.
  - Requesting an assessment by the local authority social care department about whether a vulnerable person is in need of protection.
  - An internal investigation – for less serious incidents where they feel internal mediation will be successful.
- Where cases are escalated the committee will cooperate with the police or local authority in dealing with the reported incident.
- Where an internal investigation takes place, the committee will:
  - Inform all parties involved of the reported abuse as soon as possible and seek informal resolution.
  - Inform the family/guardians of the child or young person reported as being abused of the incident, if a child or young person is involved.
  - If the matter needs to be treated formally, in the absence of informal resolution, arrange separate meetings with both parties within 10 days of the reported incident. A joint meeting may be arranged if appropriate.
    - Both parties should be given the chance to bring a friend or representative to the meeting.
    - Meetings will be attended by the named safeguarding officer and at least one other committee member.
    - All parties will also be invited to submit a written statement in advance of the meeting.
  - Once meetings have taken place the committee will decide on next steps and communicate them to all parties in writing within 5 days. They will either:
    - Implement the decision or resolution, or
    - Escalate the incident to the relevant authority, or
    - Investigate further – with agreed procedure and timeline to work towards a resolution.

### Resolution and disciplinary action

If abuse is found to have taken place any final resolution or decision will be taken in the best interest of the person who has suffered the abuse and the best interests the Stroud Symphony Orchestra.

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Agreed by the committee (by email) on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026