



Protection of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

All organisations who take part in Youth Dance England's programmes (classes, conferences, courses, events, performances, presentations and workshops) are expected to have a Child Protection Policy in place. Please take time to read the following guidance for organisations that take part or would like to take part in Youth Dance England's programmes.

1. Introduction

According to the Charity Commission for England and Wales, "charity trustees are responsible for ensuring that those benefiting from the charity are not harmed in any way through contact with their charity. They must accordingly take all reasonable steps within their power to ensure that this does not happen."

This document details the expectations Youth Dance England has regarding child protection policies and procedures of all agencies and organisations that provide dance activities to children, young people and vulnerable adults that take part in Youth Dance England's programmes. This policy has been established in accordance with Keeping arts safe (Arts Council England, April 2003).

2. Policy statement

Children, young people and vulnerable adults benefit from their involvement in dance activities provided by agencies and organisations. It is the duty of the agencies and organisations to ensure that children are safe and protected from harm whilst engaging in these activities and to have policies and procedures in place to promote safe working practices and a clear understanding of what to do if abuse is suspected or disclosed.

3. Definitions

In The Children Act 1989 a child is defined as up to and including the age of 18. The term 'young person' is not a legal term and refers to the age ranges of the official definition of a child. There is no standard definition of 'vulnerable adult' in law, but Arts Council England uses the following definition: "Vulnerable adults are people who are or may be in need of

community care services because of mental disability or other disability, age or illness, and who are, or who may be, unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation."

The government guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children* categorises abuse as: Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations on children or causing them to feel frightened or in danger.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encourage children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

4. Procedures

- Each organisation taking part in Youth Dance England's programmes is expected to develop a Child Protection Policy. Organisations that already have a policy in place will be asked to send a copy of their Child Protection Policy. Organisations that do not have a Child Protection Policy will be expected to develop one and they will not be able to take part in any of Youth Dance England's programmes until this policy is in place.
- Organisations taking part in Youth Dance England's programmes will have to put in place policies and procedures which seek to ensure that inappropriate persons do

not gain access to children, that staff are trained and supported in ensuring children's safety and that good practice is established and monitored. These procedures should include reviewing the artists' and practitioners' experience, training and qualifications in relation to the specific project for which they are being employed. All adults who are working with children in programmes run by Youth Dance England must be checked for criminal convictions through the Disclosure and Barring Service. This rule applies also to trainees and volunteers.

- Organisations will have to pay due respect in their Child Protection Policy to issues of diversity and equal opportunities, as for different reasons, disabled and children from ethnic minorities are particularly vulnerable to abuse.
- Youth Dance England will have the right to review an organisation's child protection policy and procedures at any time upon request, if they are taking part in Youth Dance England's programmes. It is the responsibility of organisations to review and update their policies and procedures in light of developments in their own practice and in legislation relating to protection issues.
- Youth Dance England uses a regular supply of photographs of children and young people dancing sent in by youth dance organisations for our newsletter, website, performances, presentations and events as well as for press purposes.

Organisations will have to make sure they have obtained permission from the children and young people in the photographs before sending them to Youth Dance England and take reasonable steps to ensure that reproduction of a child's photograph (or a photograph of a group of children) does not upset any child or put any child at risk. We will assume that any photographs sent to Youth Dance England by organisations that are taking part in our programmes are safe for publication.

If you need further advice or want a copy of YDE's Child Protection Policy contact us via email on: info@yde.org.uk