



British Deaf History Society

2nd Floor, Empire Court

30-40 Museum Street

Warrington

WA1 1HU

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The British Deaf History Society (BDHS) is a not-for-profit organisation run by a Board of Trustees. It is a registered charity number 1100669.
- 1.2 The BDHS is based at Empire Court, 30-40 Museum Street, Warrington WA1 1HU.
- 1.3 The BDHS includes the Deaf Museum based at the same premises above.
- 1.4 The BDHS is managed by a board of trustees, one of whom has particular responsibility for safeguarding children.
- 1.5 The Board has adopted this safeguarding children policy and expects every adult working or helping at the BDHS, including the Deaf Museum, to support it and comply with it. Consequently, this policy shall apply to all staff, managers, trustees, directors, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the BDHS.

2 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

- 2.1 This policy is intended to protect children and young people who receive service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us.
- 2.2 As an organisation we believe that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.
- 2.3 The provisions of this policy shall also cover services that we provide to adults who may be deemed vulnerable due to disability of illness, including mental illness and behaviour issues.

3 THE RISKS TO CHILDREN

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nonetheless, there are situations where children and young people need protection including:

- Sexual abuse
- Grooming
- Physical and emotional abuse and neglect
- Domestic violence
- Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers
- Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and aggression within our schools and campuses
- Victimisation
- Self-harm
- Unsafe environments and activities
- Crime

- Exploitation

4 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AT EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 There are three kinds of events / activities:
- a) those open to adults and children of all ages,
 - b) those for children accompanied by a parent, teacher or responsible adult
 - c) those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other activities
- 4.2 At events and activities open to all ages, children under 16 must be supervised throughout by the event by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child to the event but also takes the child home again afterwards. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile phone number of one of their parents or guardians.
- 4.3 At events or activities for children accompanied by a parent or guardian, children under 16 must be supervised throughout the event by an adult over 18 who not only brings the child to the event but also takes the child home afterwards. If a lone adult brings more than one child, the children will have to stay together, so that the one adult can supervise them. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile phone number of one of their parents / guardians.
- 4.4 At events and activities for unaccompanied children, children under the age of 16 must be enrolled into the event or activity by a responsible adult before being left with the event or activity leader. The enrolment must record the child's name, age and address and the names and addresses of the parents plus a contact mobile phone number, usually of the parent or guardian. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.
- 4.5 Both event and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasions where the BDHS will be providing a service.

5 DISCLOSURE AND BARRING

- 5.1 The type of activity that the BDGHS will offer for children include workshops / seminars, children's activity events within or outside the Deaf Museum, specified events where children are involved by arrangement.
- 5.2 Some of our activities may therefore require adult participants or adult leaders to undergo DBS police checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The required level of checking (if any) will broadly reflect the degree and frequency of unsupervised access given to other people's children.
- 5.3 The Board will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of the BDHS. A member of the BDHS who witnesses anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the following:

Susan Cartwright: BDHS Safeguarding Officer
Melinda Napier: BDHS Board Safeguarding Lead

Telephone number: 01925 632463 or for emergencies 07789488622.

- 5.4 The Board will review the allegation and likely risk to children and, if appropriate, consider banning the member from future events or revoking his / her membership or both, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of the Society.

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY ASPECTS OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

- 6.1 Before starting any event for unaccompanied children, the Board will carry out a risk assessment and then take steps to minimise all risks to health and safety. Parents and children will be made aware of any particular risks and the steps to be taken to minimise those risks. The Board will keep a record of all risk assessments.
- 6.2 Sufficient adults must be present at any event for unaccompanied children to enable one adult to deal with the emergency while another adult supervises the children not directly affected by the emergency.

7 POLICY ON THE PREVENTION OF BULLYING

We will not tolerate the bullying of children either by adults or by other children. If any incident of child bullying should arise at a BDHS event, those involved will be separated immediately and the parents of the children involved will be asked to deal with the matter. The Board will review all incidents of child-on-child bullying and assess the likely future risk to children. If appropriate, the Board will consider banning a child from future events, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of the Society. Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with under paragraphs 5.3 & 5.4 above.

8 PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN

People must expect to have their photograph taken at many of our events and we reserve the right to take suitable photographs of those attending, along with the names of members involved.

9 MANAGING BEHAVIOUR, DISCIPLINE AND ACCEPTABLE RESTRAINT

- 9.1 Adults supervising children at BDHS events must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is absolutely necessary to prevent injury to any person or to prevent serious damage to property, then the minimum necessary restraint may be used but for that purpose only.
- 9.2 Unacceptable behaviour at BDHS events for unaccompanied children will generally be stopped by separating the children from each other and from the group. The miscreants will be suitably supervised and will be returned to the care of their parents at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 9.3 The BDHS may apply a further disciplinary sanction, namely the banning of the child from future events over the following 18 months.
- 9.4 Any parent who is aggrieved by this ban may appeal to the BDHS who will consider the views of all relevant persons. The decision of the BDHS is final.

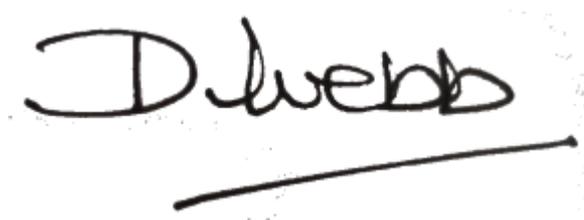
10 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following:

- The Children Act 1989

- United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, 1991
- General Data Protection Regulation 2018
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special education needs and disability (SEND) code of practice – Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0-25 from 1 September 2014
- Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services
- Working together to safeguard children (2017)

NOTE: This policy was approved by the following member of the Board of Trustees on 10 September 2018 and is due for review every THREE YEARS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Webb', is written over a faint, dotted-line rectangular box. A solid black horizontal line is drawn below the signature.

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Diane Webb, CHAIR (BDHS)