

NEW VENTURE THEATRE – SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

The New Venture Theatre recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, the Children Act 1989 revised 2004.

The theatre recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it is physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The theatre is committed to a practice which protects children from harm. All members of the theatre accept and recognise the responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm. Children and young people are defined as under the age of 18. We also acknowledge our responsibilities in respect of adult volunteers and visitors who might be deemed to be 'at risk' because they are 'vulnerable' *

The theatre believes that:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- The welfare of children is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All members working with Youth will be provided with a copy of the theatre's Code of Behaviour [Appendix A] and sign to that effect.

The theatre will ensure that:

- All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity;
- The welfare of each child will always be put first.
- A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers the children to share in the decision-making process;
- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism.
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned.
- All adult members of the theatre provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour and it will take seriously any allegation or suspicion of abuse towards a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- All members understand their obligations to report care or protection concerns about a child or young person to the theatre's Child Protection Officer or, in the case of a vulnerable adult, to an Officer of the Management committee.
- It will keep up to date with health and safety legislation.
- It will endeavour to keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- It will undertake relevant development and training.
- It will hold a register of every child involved with the theatre and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

The theatre has child protection procedures which accompany this policy. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the theatre's Equality and Diversity Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

[2]

The theatre has a dedicated Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures are adhered to. That person's name is Patricia Lyne [aka Pat Boxall] and she can be contacted on Tel: 01273 770004 Mob: 07786 585253 email: pat.lyne_47@btinternet.com

**A Vulnerable Adult is defined in accordance with The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) Order 2002 as a person aged 18 or over who has a condition of the following type: (i) a substantial learning or physical disability; (ii) a physical or mental illness or mental disorder, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs; or (iii) a significant reduction in physical or mental capacity.*

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Management Committee of the theatre and will be subject to annual review.

Date 7TH March 2006 last reviewed and updated 6th April 2019