

Music in Peebles

Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy

All musicians and Charity Trustees who take part in the Music in Peebles Outreach Programme must be made aware of the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy which exists in Scotland. All forms of care service including home care, residential care homes, nursing homes or other institutional settings should have this policy in place.

A vulnerable adult is any person aged 16 years or over who is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves or who is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. This may be because they have a mental health problem, a disability, a sensory impairment, are old and frail, or have some form of illness. Because of their vulnerability, the individual may be in receipt of a care service in their own home, in the community or be resident in a residential care home, nursing home or other institutional setting.

All vulnerable adults have the right to:

- live a life free from neglect, exploitation and abuse;
- be protected from inhuman and degrading treatment;
- support to make their own decisions and to give or withhold their consent to an activity or service;
- engage in activities and offered services that enable them to fulfil their ability and potential;
- be treated equally with their background and culture being valued and respected;
- dignity and respect through recognition of uniqueness and personal needs;
- liberty, privacy and security.

Music in Peebles may send musicians and Charity Trustees to care service venues without having run a full disclosure check. It is the responsibility of the carer/care service in line with both their internal policies and those of the local authority to determine whether a disclosure should be carried out prior to the visit.

Sufficient staff supervision must be in place at all times during any workshop according to the policy of the hosting care service. It is the responsibility of the carer/care service to ensure that the musicians and Charity Trustees are at no time left alone with vulnerable adults as the musicians/Charity Trustees cannot be left in the role as primary carer.

Musicians and Charity Trustees must adhere to these guidelines as detailed:

- Common sense and professional judgement is required at all times;
- Create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere while at all times remaining professional;

- Physical contact should be person-centred and appropriate to the task required;
- Be open to and aware of diversity in the beliefs and practices of vulnerable adults and their families;
- Be aware of the difficulties posed by language barriers and other communication difficulties;
- For elderly audiences, be aware of the difficulties posed by ageing - talk slowly and clearly, allow time to process information;
- Stay aware of health and safety hazards. Make sure any equipment will not cause an accident and that there are no potential dangers in the activities delivered;
- Any photographs taken of the workshop/activity must be authorised in advance by the participating vulnerable adult/care provider.

Adapted for Music in Peebles from Volunteer Now "Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults - A Shared Responsibility".

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Music in Peebles on 30th January 2021.

Helen Narracott

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President, Music in Peebles