



Centre Stage Balsall Common Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Centre Stage is an amateur dramatics group based in Balsall Common, Coventry which has been running since 1985. We perform up to three shows a year ranging from plays, pantomimes and musicals.

We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment where everyone feels confident about sharing any concerns they may have about their own safety, or the safety of others.

This policy applies to all official activities which are organised and approved by the committee. These activities can easily be identified as they will be promoted through the Centre Stage mailing list and WhatsApp group by our committee.

Definitions

Centre Stage: An amateur dramatic society which meets to prepare, rehearse, produce and perform productions. The society also organises social events for members, potential members and friends/family of members.

Child: Any person under the age of 18

Vulnerable adult: S.2 of the The Police Act 1997 (Enhanced Criminal Record Certificates) (Protection of Vulnerable Adults) Regulations 2002 provides a legal definition. For the purposes of this policy, the term is paraphrased as being any person over 18 years who is in need of care and support, and who may be at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect as they cannot protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

We believe that:

- The welfare of all children and vulnerable adults is paramount
- Everyone, no matter their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity, has the right to protection from abuse
- All safeguarding concerns should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All members of the society should be clear on how to respond appropriately if they have a safeguarding concern or if a child or vulnerable adult takes them into their confidence

Centre Stage will ensure that:

- All children and vulnerable adults will be treated with respect and dignity
- Duty of care will always be put first and all relevant legislation will be complied with

- A minimum of two adults, who hold a valid DBS check, will be present during sessions with children or vulnerable adults
- Wherever possible, a parent or guardian is present
- Work takes place in an open environment
- We give positive and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour
- All adult members of the society will provide a positive role model for dealing with other people
- It holds a register of every child involved in the activities of the society and will retain a contact name and telephone number close at hand in case of emergencies

Safeguarding Officers

Our Safeguarding Officers are designated annually by the committee and are the first contact point for children, young people, parents/carers and any other adults who have questions or concerns.

It is the officers' responsibility to always take action following any safeguarding concerns reported in good faith by contacting the appropriate authorities for advice as necessary. It is also the officers' responsibility to inform the parents/carers of the child/young person unless that will increase their risk of harm, or unless advised not to by the Children's Services personnel.

If you have a safeguarding concern regarding a member of Centre Stage, please contact one of the safeguarding officers named below providing the following information:

- **The nature of the concern, including details of when and where it took place (if known)**
- **Who is involved**
- **Any action which may have already been taken e.g. contacting a relevant authority**
- **Your preferred contact details**

Officers for 2023/24:

Yasmin Zahran: yzahran5@aol.co.uk

Simon Palin: palins777@gmail.com

Alison Bennett: alison.m.bennett@outlook.com

Nathalie Fitch: natsconnor@hotmail.com

Emily Coles: emziky1@outlook.com

Other useful contacts:

NSPCC Helpline

0808 8005000 or help@nspcc.org.uk

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/nspcc-helpline/>

Childline

0800 1111

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>