Safeguarding for musicians

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Today’s topics

• Introduction to safeguarding
• Good safeguarding practice
• DBS/PVG/AccessNI
• What to do if safeguarding issues arise
• Policies and procedures for ISM members
• Where to find further information
Key points

• Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility
• Find out who is responsible for safeguarding where you work
• Self-employed people also need to be aware
• Familiarise yourself with any policies and procedures
• ISM members must also be familiar with the ISM’s safeguarding procedures
Keeping children safe

- Who is a child?
  - Everyone under the age of 18
- S47 of the Children Act 1989
  - Duty on local authority to investigate and take action if risk of significant harm
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022
  - Everyone should read part one
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Similar documents in the devolved administrations
Abuse and neglect

Abuse = maltreatment of a child by inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm

Types of abuse:
• Physical abuse
• Emotional abuse
• Sexual abuse
• Neglect
Physical contact: best practice

- If you are employed, check policy on physical contact
- Only appropriate in limited circumstances: there may be alternatives.
- If you intend to use physical contact in lessons, write to parent/carer before lessons begin.
- Explain to the parent/carer and pupils the nature of the physical contact and why it is necessary.
- Not on the trunk of the body unless there is a justifiable reason, eg administering first aid
Social media: best practice

• Never friend, follow or connect with children using Facebook, Twitter or other social media
• Never communicate with children using Facebook, Twitter or other social media
• Avoid the use of email, text messages or mobile calls to communicate with children
• Think carefully about online teaching and whether parental supervision is required.
Grooming

- For example, befriending a child as a prelude to abuse
- Do not give a child money or presents
- Do not engage in inappropriate or unprofessional conversations with children
- Do not do favours for a child such as giving them a lift home
Responding to a child making an allegation of abuse

- Stay calm, listen carefully
- Show you are taking the child seriously
- Let the child describe what has happened at their own pace and in their own words
- Reassure the child that they are right to tell you
- Tell them who you will share the information with
- Do not judge or investigate yourself
- Immediately make a written record, date and sign
- Tell relevant colleagues or professionals
Reporting your concerns

• If working for a school or other organisation, report immediately to the safeguarding lead person.

• If working independently:
  • Contact the ISM if you are a member
  • Contact other membership body for advice
  • Contact NSPCC 24-hour child protection helpline
  • Contact the local authority children’s social care department
  • Get medical attention if necessary
  • Call the police if necessary
Allegations against you

• Check any reporting procedures where you work
• Contact your designated safeguarding person immediately
• Seek professional advice immediately
• ISM members should contact the ISM’s legal team without delay
Accessing DBS/PVG/AccessNI

• Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
  • England and Wales
  • Four levels
  • How to apply
  • Update service

• Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG)
  • Scotland
  • Those who work with children and vulnerable adults
  • How to apply
  • Continuous check

• AccessNI
  • Northern Ireland
  • Work involving close or regular contact with children or vulnerable adults
  • How to apply
  • No update service or continuous check
ISM Policy, Code of Conduct and Procedures

- Code of Conduct
- ISM Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Code of Practice and Procedures
- Disciplinary Procedure
- ISM Byelaws

ism.org/about/safeguarding
What does the ISM do if...

A member contacts us to inform us of a complaint or allegation made against them?

• Members should speak to the ISM legal team.
• The legal team will speak with the member and take all relevant details.
• The ISM’s Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) will be informed.
• The DSP will inform the CEO.
• The matter may be referred to the Child Protection Committee.
What does the ISM do if...

A complaint is received about an ISM member?

• The ISM’s Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) will be informed.
• DSP will inform the CEO.
• The matter may be referred to the Child Protection Committee.
Further information

NSPCC
learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection
learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/tutors
Child Protection Helpline – 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk
Thank you for listening

Any questions?

dsp@ism.org