

Escafeld Chorale Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding in its broadest sense means protecting a citizen's health, wellbeing and human rights and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect (Care Quality Commission def.) . However, there is specific legislation relating to the safeguarding of children under 18 years old and to **vulnerable adults**.

Children

Escafeld Chorale would not usually have dealings with children either at rehearsals or concerts. Should such a situation arise, the Committee Chair would liaise with parents, guardians or other responsible adults to ensure an appropriate safeguarding procedure is put into place.

Vulnerable Adults

The Department of Health defines a vulnerable adult as "a person over the age of 18 who is or who may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or serious exploitation".

Adult safeguarding is a complex issue to deal with as adults have the right to self-determination as well as the "right to a private and family life" (Human Rights Act). An individual's mental capacity to make "informed choices" must also be taken into consideration. Does the person adequately understand the situation they are in and are they aware of the potential consequences to their own wellbeing.

Action

Escafeld Chorale has a duty of care towards its members but no statutory authority under the Care Act 2014. **If a choir member suspects that another member may fit the category of a "vulnerable adult" and may be suffering harm or ill treatment either at choir or outside of choir they should report their concerns in the first instance to their part rep who will then seek guidance from the Chair.**

Whatever the situation of the choir member, Escafeld Chorale does not condone any behaviour which could be classed as inappropriate or as bullying or harassment and members should report any concerns to their part rep.

Whilst instances of bullying/harassment can be dealt with by the Committee, if a vulnerable adult is involved then outside agencies may have to be notified. The Chair will investigate and make a recommendation to the Committee on which action is appropriate.

This link gives more information on safeguarding vulnerable adults:

<https://www.sheffieldasp.org.uk/sasp/p/worried-about-an-adult>