

NORTHAMPTON FESTIVAL OF DANCE

Safeguarding Children – Guidance for Volunteer and Paid Staff

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Sinead Loughnane (07711320341)

Northampton Festival of Dance is committed to safeguarding children and young people from harm and promoting their welfare. Any concerns of any nature relating to a child must be reported to Sinead Loughnane (or, if neither are available, a member of the Festival Committee) immediately. They will make sure that any further action necessary is taken.

- It is estimated that approximately 1 in 4 children are experienced / have experienced abuse or neglect
- As a staff member, whether paid or voluntary, you have a duty to safeguard the welfare of children under 18 years participating in Northampton Festival of Dance.
- It is an expectation of the Festival that all adults involved in a helping role will listen to children and take account of their needs, views and wishes and pass on any concerns without delay, paying due regard to the utmost confidentiality. For this reason, you are asked to liaise with Sinead or Kate in the first instance
- Child abuse can take the following forms:

Physical

Sexual

Emotional

Neglect

For descriptions please see the back of this sheet. Please familiarise yourself with these and be aware of the possible indicators.

- Other Safeguarding issues to be aware of include, but are not limited to, the following:
Domestic Violence (including coercive control), Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Radicalisation, e-Safety (including cyber-bullying, sexting etc), parental mental health, substance misuse, self-harm and many more. For more information on these please ask Sinead
- If a child does disclose possible abuse, harm or neglect to you, please treat the child with utmost sensitivity and seek support from a committee member as soon as possible. Please write down the child's words, keep the paper confidential, and hand it to Sinead or Kate as soon as possible.
- Children at the festival are the responsibility of their parent / guardian / designated carer at all times.
- If you want advice from the local authority, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 0300 1261000, option 3

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<u>Physical Abuse</u>	
Examples include	Possible indicators
Hitting, scratching, biting, scalding, shaking, throwing, causing physical harm to a child.	Unexplained injuries, marks, bruising, uses clothing to cover marks, refusal to change for dance.

<u>Sexual Abuse</u>	
Examples include	Possible indicators
Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Includes online related activity.	Isolation / withdrawn behaviour, urinary tract infections, self-conscious, overt sexualised behaviour.

<u>Emotional Abuse</u>	
Examples include	Possible indicators
Persistent emotional ill treatment of a child. There is an element of emotional abuse in all forms of abuse and neglect.	Emotional / mental development delay, self-critical, anxiety, speech disorders, overreaction to mistakes. Attention seeking or challenging behaviour.

<u>Neglect</u>	
Examples include	Possible indicators
Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, protection from harm/danger, access to medical care	Hunger, poor hygiene, poor state of clothing, persistent headlice, tiredness.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIST OF EXAMPLES AND INDICATORS IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE