



## **Grand Opera House**

# **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures**

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**Effective from** : November 2017

**Next review date** : 30 November 2018

**Responsibility for review** : Grand Opera House Designated Persons

## **STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Grand Opera House Trust is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people participating in the Arts and aims to provide safe, participatory and creative opportunities for all children and young people who access the Grand Opera House.

It is unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. The Grand Opera House Trust is committed to practices which protects them.

In order to do this the Grand Opera House Trust recognises that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- All children and young people whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, political opinions and/or sexual identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- The Theatre needs to work in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other external agencies to promote and ensure their welfare and safety.

The purpose of the policy is:

- To provide protection for children and young people who receive services from the Theatre.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.
- To demonstrate the Trust's commitment to providing a service that protects children from harm, protects the Trust's staff and the Trust itself from any potential allegations.
- To ensure hirers of the Trust's services are aware of the Theatre's expectations, guidelines and procedures in relation to safeguarding children and young people while at the Grand Opera House.

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This policy applies to all staff, including Senior Managers and Board Members, paid staff, volunteers, agency staff, contracted staff, students or anyone working on behalf of the Grand Opera House Trust.

The Grand Opera House will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.

- Adopting child safeguarding and protection guidelines through procedures for staff and volunteers so everyone is aware of their responsibilities and obligations.
- Ensuring that the procedures are implemented in a consistent and equitable manner and that staff are regularly reminded of their responsibilities.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Sharing information about child safeguarding and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Within this policy when we refer to Child, Children or Young People it refers to all vulnerable beneficiaries including vulnerable adults.

The information and advice contained in this document conforms with the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and Children (Public Performances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996. It also incorporates advice contained in the Department of Health's document entitled, Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland.

The Grand Opera House is committed to reviewing this policy annually, or following any legislation or best practise updates.



Chief Executive

Date: November 2017