

Youth Brass 2000 Safeguarding Policy

Updated July 2025

Next Review July 2026

This policy applies to all members, volunteers or anyone working on behalf of Youth Brass 2000 (“the Band”).

This policy has been written with reference to:

The Children Act (2004),

The Children Act (1989),

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

The aim of this policy is to:

- protect children, young people and adults who are part of the band from maltreatment and to prevent the impairment of children’s health or development.
- To provide band members, parents and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

Safeguarding Statement

Youth Brass 2000 Band believes that a child, young person should never experience abuse of any kind. The band understand that we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

The band recognises that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act (1989).
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare.

The band will seek to keep children, young people, and adults safe by:

- valuing them, listening to, and respecting them.
- appointing a designated safeguarding lead and deputy safeguarding leads who complete safeguarding training with, and receive support from, Brass Bands England.
- adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through policies, procedures, and codes of conduct.

- providing effective support and training for volunteers with safeguarding responsibilities.
- sharing information about child protection with all band members, including children, young people, parents, and volunteers.
- sharing concerns with agencies as appropriate and involving parents, carers children, and young people when necessary.
- Developing and maintaining anti-bullying policies and procedures.
- Implementing a code of conduct for band members.
- Adopting policies and procedures to manage allegations against adults, including whistleblowing.
- Implementing policies and procedures for dealing with complaints.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers in line with safer recruitment procedures and ensuring appropriate checks are completed and recorded.
- Ensuring there is a safe physical environment for all band members.
- Ensuring that personal information is stored securely, demonstrating regard for GDPR.

Useful contact details:

Band Safeguarding Officer: Chrissy Powell

Deputy Safeguarding Officers: Rachel Strong.

Local police: 101 or, if in danger, 999

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk

ChildLine: 0800 1111 (textphone 0800 400 222) or www.childline.org.uk

Brass Bands England Welfare Officer: 01226 771 015

Types of Abuse

Abuse and Neglect of children

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or young person. They may result in a child suffering or being likely to suffer significant harm. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult, or another child or children. Government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'(2018) defines forms of abuse:

1. Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

2. Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the illtreatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

3. Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, even if the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

4. Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care givers); or
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

5. Emerging forms of abuse

As suggested under the 'Sexual Abuse' heading above, it should be noted that perpetrators are increasingly using online methods to access children and young people as well as to indulge in abuse by creating or downloading abusive images of them. Other forms of abuse that have come to public attention relatively recently have included the sexual exploitation of children and young people for commercial gain, forms of modern slavery, and abuse linked to cultural or religious belief (such as:

Female genital mutilation (FGM), honour violence, forced marriage, radicalisation or abuse associated with a belief in spiritual possession).

6. Abuse of a position of trust

This is a legal concept within The Sexual Offences Act 2003. It involves an adult of 18 or over engaging in sexual activity with or in the presence of a child or young person under 18, where the older person is in a position of responsibility towards the child or young person in one of a variety of settings, including a 'workplace setting'. The concept also covers 'causing or inciting a child' to engage in sexual activity, and 'causing a child to watch a sexual act'.

6.1 Responsibilities under Working Together to Safeguard Children

Under Chapter 1 of this statutory guidance it is the responsibility of band leaders and those working with young members to share information and work together with statutory partners if they have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of abuse or neglect. Once a referral has been received by a local authority children's social care team, they should, within one working day, decide about the type of response that is required and acknowledge receipt to the referrer. Feedback should also be provided to the referrer on decisions taken by the local authority. For example, the local authority, may take the view that the child and family are in need of support services, or may decide that the child is in need of protection. If a band believes that the position taken by the local authority is inadequate to protect the child or young person, we will consider escalating the referral within the Local Authority. It is not the job of bands to take a view on whether abuse has taken place or is at risk of taking place, nor

is it the job of bands to conduct an assessment on this matter; this is the role of the statutory agencies such as the local authority and police.

Policy reviewed July 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Collins', with a stylized, cursive script.

Don Collins – Band Chairman