



LIVE MUSIC NOW

Safeguarding of Children and Young People Policy

1. Safeguarding Commitment

Live Music Now is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people involved in our work.

We believe every child and young person has the right to feel safe, heard and respected, regardless of their background, identity or circumstances. We are committed to creating inclusive, supportive and safe environments in which children and young people can participate in music-making confidently and meaningfully.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We aim to build a safeguarding culture in which concerns are recognised early, responded to appropriately, and where children, young people, musicians, staff and volunteers feel able to speak up and be listened to.

2. About Live Music Now

Live Music Now is a social impact charity using the power of music to support individual and community health, wellbeing and connection.

Our professional musicians deliver interactive, participatory music programmes in schools, hospitals, specialist settings, care settings and community venues across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Much of our work takes place with children and young people who may experience additional barriers to participation, including disabled and autistic children, children with complex needs, and those experiencing social or educational disadvantage.

We work in partnership with schools, healthcare providers, community organisations, families and carers to support safe, inclusive and high-quality musical experiences.

3. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to:

- protect children and young people who participate in Live Music Now activities from harm
- provide musicians, mentors, trainers, staff, volunteers, Trustees and anyone working on behalf of Live Music Now with the principles that guide our safeguarding practice.

This policy applies to all Live Music Now activity involving children and young people, including:

- all Live Music Now musicians
- mentors and trainers
- employees and freelancers
- volunteers
- Trustees
- anyone representing or working on behalf of Live Music Now.

This includes:

- In-person delivery
- Online and digital activity
- Training and mentoring
- Events and performances
- Partnership activity

This policy should be read alongside Live Music Now's Safeguarding Procedures and related organisational policies.

4. Our Safeguarding Principles

Live Music Now recognises that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children and young people have an equal right to protection from abuse, harm, bullying, neglect and exploitation
- safeguarding practice must be inclusive, person-centred and responsive to individual communication, cultural and access needs
- some children and young people may face additional barriers to disclosure or increased vulnerability because of disability, previous experiences, dependency, communication differences, mental health needs or social circumstances
- children and young people should be listened to and involved appropriately in decisions that affect them
- effective safeguarding depends upon partnership working with families, carers, host organisations and statutory agencies
- safeguarding is a proactive and ongoing responsibility, not only a response to incidents or disclosures.

5. How We Keep Children and Young People Safe

Live Music Now seeks to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people
- promoting safe, inclusive and positive environments for music-making
- appointing a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Deputy DSLs and Trustee oversight for safeguarding
- ensuring musicians, freelancers, staff and volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities

- providing safeguarding induction, training, supervision and ongoing support
- adopting safer recruitment practices, including DBS/AccessNI checks at the appropriate level
- maintaining clear codes of conduct and professional boundaries
- implementing effective procedures for responding to safeguarding concerns, allegations and low-level concerns
- sharing safeguarding information appropriately with relevant agencies and partner organisations
- developing safe approaches to online and digital activity
- promoting anti-bullying practice and respectful behaviour
- maintaining effective whistleblowing and complaints procedures
- carrying out appropriate risk assessments for activities and environments
- recording and storing safeguarding information securely and in line with data protection legislation
- reviewing safeguarding practice regularly to support learning, reflection and continuous improvement.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for ensuring that Live Music Now fulfils its safeguarding responsibilities.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has responsibility for:

- overseeing safeguarding policy and procedures
- responding to safeguarding concerns and referrals
- supporting musicians, staff and volunteers
- liaising with statutory agencies where appropriate
- ensuring safeguarding training and review processes are in place.

All musicians, staff, volunteers and Trustees are responsible for:

- helping to create safe environments
- understanding and following this policy and associated procedures
- recognising and responding appropriately to concerns
- maintaining professional boundaries
- reporting concerns promptly.

7. Reporting Concerns

Any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or young person must be taken seriously and reported in line with **Live Music Now's Safeguarding Procedures**.

Where Live Music Now activity takes place within a host venue such as a school, hospital or community setting, concerns should normally be shared with the host organisation's Designated Safeguarding Lead as well as Live Music Now's DSL where appropriate.

If a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, emergency services should be contacted immediately.

Live Music Now recognises that safeguarding concerns may arise in person, online, through observation, disclosure, changes in behaviour or concerns raised by others.

8. Online Safety and Professional Boundaries

Live Music Now recognises the importance of safeguarding within online and digital environments.

Musicians, staff and volunteers are expected to maintain clear professional boundaries at all times, including in online communication, use of social media, photography, filming and digital platforms.

Online delivery and communication with children and young people must follow Live Music Now's safeguarding procedures, online safety guidance and codes of conduct.

9. Related Policies and Guidance

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding Procedures (Children and Young People)
- Code of Conduct for Staff, Musicians and Volunteers
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Online Safety Guidance
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies
- Risk Assessment procedures
- Privacy and Data Protection policies
- Complaints and Whistleblowing procedures
- Musicians Handbook

10. Legal and Guidance Framework

This policy is informed by current safeguarding legislation and guidance across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, including:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (Department for Education, 2026)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (Department for Education, 2025)
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures
- Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (Department of Health, 2017)
- Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland procedures and guidance
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR
- UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) guidance and other relevant safeguarding and online safety guidance

11. Contact Details

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Karen Irwin T: 07971 446375 E: karen.irwin@livemusicnow.org.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (UK)

Janet Fischer (CEO) T: 07788 422 030 E: janet.fischer@livemusicnow.org.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Northern Ireland)

Margaret Kelly T: 07527 287792 E: margaret.kelly@livemusicnow.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

12. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner in response to:

- changes in legislation or guidance
- organisational learning
- safeguarding incidents or concerns
- changes in organisational activity.

Organisational Sign off

Policy Owner:	Strategic Director, Music in Education
Current Version:	-
Latest Version:	1.0
Live Music Now Owner sign off:	Karen Irwin 3 rd June 2026
Next Review Date:	31 st May 2027
Policy Contact Point:	Karen Irwin (07971 446375)

Version Management

Version	Updated by	Updates made
1.0	Karen Irwin	Original document



To be approved by Board of Trustees at meeting July 2026.