



# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

## - Young People

Good for the Soul's work involves, in the main, adults with, or at risk of, mild to moderate mental ill health issues and who can be considered vulnerable. However, there may be occasions when young people are involved in sessions. It is important that all people with whom we work feel safe at all times during our work with them.

### DEFINITIONS

Throughout the following document, the following terms shall be used:

**Good for the Soul** refers to both the organisation by the same name and to all individuals, paid or voluntary, responsible for the management and direction of that organisation.

**A young person** is any individual under the age of 18.

### INTRODUCTION

Good for the Soul believes that every young person involved in our work should have access to a positive artistic environment in which all participants can thrive both creatively and personally. Good for the Soul may be considered to be in a position of trust with respect to all individuals within its sessions, and where members are young or vulnerable it is necessary to ensure that their welfare, care and protection are actively planned for.

The key to planning for the welfare, care and protection of young people is knowledge of each individual and his/her needs, experiences, hopes, fears and anxieties within the workshop environment. Good for the Soul will ensure that all young people are treated as individuals with their progress, welfare and needs monitored and planned for. This policy will outline the ways in which a young person's welfare and protection can be planned for through procedures that emanate from knowledge of the individual's needs and development

The following guidelines address the procedures and practices that will actively and positively promote an individual young person's welfare and protection in the context of their progress and development.

## **GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN GOOD FOR THE SOUL'S ACTIVITIES**

1. Staff ratios:  
Good for the Soul will strive to ensure that the ratios of artists to participants do not exceed 1:10 within workshops, rehearsals and performances. Artists will offer a range of direct and indirect support experiences to ensure young people are able to progress steadily to establish their own positions within the group with as much independence as possible – while at the same time being as “safe” as possible.
2. During workshops young people will be supported by professional artists who:
  - a) Are trained in Mental Health First Aid
  - b) Hold Enhanced CRB clearance
  - c) (From October 2009) are Independent Safeguarding Authority Registered
  - d) Hold appropriate public liability insurance.
3. Liaison with Parents and Carers:  
In all areas regarding the welfare, care and provision for their children, parents and carers will be encouraged to contribute information.  
  
Where there are specific issues related to a young person's personal care and welfare parents will be consulted to ensure the participant's needs can be met in as discreet a manner as possible
4. Liaison with young people:  
Individuals will always be consulted on their progress, welfare and care within Good for the Soul and their views will inform planning.
5. Use of information:  
Good for the Soul will ensure that information about progress which can inform planning remains confidential.
6. Where photographs/video is to be taken, a consent form must be completed by the participant's parent/legal guardian
7. Young people have a right to expect a caring, safe, secure environment within Good for the Soul sessions– free from abuse and discrimination of any sort. Contracts of artists who are found practicing such abuse or discrimination will be terminated.
8. Registration procedures  
Good for the Soul will ensure that in workshops young people are registered on entering a session. This registration procedure will monitor absence and act as a fire register for all individuals within the session.

9. Referral  
Should there be any concerns regarding the welfare of young people, they should be reported to the group leader/case worker or, in the case of the PCT's 'Arts for Wellbeing' Service, to the Pioneering Care Partnership.
10. In the rare event that any contractor is suspected of abusing a young person they will cease to be contracted to Good for the Soul.

### **ADOPTION OF THIS POLICY**

This Policy was adopted by Good for the Soul CIC Ltd on the

day of , 2009 by:

Jane Dancer (Director) .....

Louise Taylor (Director) .....

Stephen Marshall (Director) .....

This policy will be reviewed annually from the date of its adoption