

Shawbury Village Players' Safeguarding Policy.

Shawbury Village Players **is committed to providing a variety of activities** for children, young people and their families and adults in an environment which is safe for all.

This policy statement applies to children under the age of 18 years and any person over 18 years, who may be vulnerable at any time. Anyone working with children or vulnerable adults, including volunteers, must read, abide by and sign a copy of this document. This will be provided by the director or lead person.

Shawbury Village Players' principles and beliefs.

- All members of the group will be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- Everyone, regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse and exploitation.
- Abuse (including bullying, harassment and victimisation) and exploitation are never acceptable.
- Shawbury Village Players and volunteers commit to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults who are involved with the work of the group.
- Any service providers, suppliers or others with whom we work should share our principles and beliefs and should meet minimum standards of protection for children, young people and vulnerable adults in their activities.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Interactions within the SVP will be enthusiastic and constructive, rather than negative.
- This policy statement will be owned by all members and volunteers and is kept by the safeguarding Lead and is also placed on the SVP website for members' access.
- All adult members of the society provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.

Shawbury Village Players commits to the following:

- The appointment of a Safeguarding (Child Protection and Vulnerable adult) Lead, who will be a paid up member of the group and hold a current clear DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check, with also safeguarding training.
- When working with children, there should be at least one supervising adult who is DBS checked.

- During performances all children must be supervised at all times by at least two adults.(See Guidance for Parents)
- Any organisation providing services or supplies will be required to show evidence to the satisfaction of the SVP producer of the production that they have addressed protection issues and that they are aware of Good Practice in relation to working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Providing an environment in which children and parents/carers feel secure.
- The provision of positively recruited volunteers in whom children and parents/carers feel confident to approach if they are in difficulties. A notice will be displayed in the Production Venue, and members' website section, identifying the name of the Appointed Safeguarding Lead to whom any issues/concerns should be raised.
- The Safeguarding Lead will keep up to date with legislation and undertake appropriate protection training to ensure their skills and expertise are current.
- Appropriately qualified First Aid personnel being available, where possible, during productions with an area of privacy; all reasonable care will be taken in event of a First Aid situation.
- Commit to working with parents/carers and children and undertake to communicate with parents/carers regarding specific needs of the child, whilst they are involved in Shawbury Village Players' productions/events.
- Adults engaging with children at SVP productions/events will be encouraged to work as a team/group and not to single out individual children for unnecessary attention.
- Shawbury Village Players will contribute to an inter-agency approach to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, through the Safeguarding Lead.
- Should an allegation be made against any member or volunteer of the group it will be taken seriously without prejudice and SVP will co-operate with any investigation.
- The Safeguarding Lead will hold all relevant information regarding Children and Vulnerable Adult Protection incidents or concerns in a secure confidential file for a period of two years.
- Only positive use of Social Networking sites eg Facebook / Twitter will be expected when there is communication with reference to SVP. Should any communication not be in keeping with this policy SVP will undertake to address it. Actions will be led by the Safeguarding Lead and the Chair Person.
- There is a commitment that only photographs which show positive and appropriate images of members will be placed on the website. Parents' permission must be sought before photographs of children or vulnerable adults are posted.
- Keeping up-to-date with health and safety legislation.
- The director of each production and the Lead at children's workshops should hold a register of every child currently involved with the society and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

Safeguarding Procedure

- All directors / Producers must hold a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and must be familiar with its requirements at the start of any production .
- All volunteers must be aware of the Safeguarding lead – Angela Bray – and must sign a copy of the policy.
- During all performances, children (five to eighteen years old) and vulnerable adults should be supervised at all times by at least two responsible adults.
- If the Safeguarding lead (Angela bray) is not involved in a production, the director must appoint someone as a point of contact, who is safeguarding trained or DBS checked and who will be present at rehearsals and performances. The name of this person must be made known to A.B. and all involved in the production.
- Any issue arising must be reported IMMEDIATELY to the named point of contact and to the Safeguarding Lead (07739590870)
- If A.B. is not available to discuss what action is required, the named person and the director must be prepared to deal with the issue straight away in what they feel is the most appropriate manner – any delay can cause further problems.
- Confidentiality must be maintained at all times.

Reviewed 17TH January 2023

Policy Review Procedure

Review date January 17th, 2023

Signature of Chair...Richard Bray Signature of Safeguarding Lead...Angela Bray.