



Scottish Community Drama

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

NATIONAL DRAMA ADVISOR

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WHAT THIS PRESENTATION WILL COVER

- An explanation of the difference between safeguarding and child protection
- The legal obligations of the PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) scheme
- What to consider when you create your own policies
- Signposting to organisations and good practice

**SAFEGUARDING IS WHAT WE DO TO
PREVENT HARM.**

**CHILD PROTECTION IS HOW WE RESPOND
IF WE SUSPECT OR IF SOMEONE DISCLOSES
HARM**

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD IN SCOTLAND?

In Scotland, the definition of a child varies in different legal contexts, but statutory guidance which supports the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, includes all children and young people up to the age of **18**.

(NSPCC)

WHAT ARE SAFEGUARDING TOOLS?

- PVG Scheme for individuals in a regulated role-See slides 7 to 9
- Policies such as Safeguarding Everyone, Code of Conduct, Image consent, safe use of social media and training
- Good communication with everyone – being open with children and adults about how to keep everyone safe
- All of these elements should be considered for safeguarding purposes

CHILD PROTECTION TOOLS?

- Ensuring that your policy has clear guidelines on how to manage concerns – who should you involve, what steps should you take
- Understanding and following the guidelines from Volunteer Scotland about when there is a 'duty to refer' Follow this [link](#) for more information

WHAT IS THE PVG SCHEME?

- The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme is a membership scheme in Scotland that ensures people who work with children and vulnerable adults are suitable. It does this by checking an individual's criminal history and notifies organisations attached to a record if they become under consideration of being barred from holding a regulated role
- The scheme is managed by Disclosure Scotland. However Voluntary groups and Charities will submit applications via Volunteer Scotland

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH ROLES ARE REGULATED-1 of 2

- SCDA has agreed with Volunteer Scotland the generic regulated roles within amateur drama clubs. These can be found here in the safeguarding matrix <https://drama.scot/guides/safeguarding/>
- From 1 April 2025 it is **illegal** to allow anyone to carry out a regulated role without a PVG scheme record
- From 1 April 2025 Trustees of clubs set up to provide activity for young people or children as one of its main purposes will be a regulated role and a PVG scheme record will be required.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHICH ROLES ARE REGULATED-2 of 2

- If your club is **NOT** set up to provide activity for children as one of its main purposes and performs a play involving one or more children (under 18) as a one-off activity, this does **NOT** meet the threshold for the PVG scheme (however the club should put in place policies, training and risk assessments)
- It is illegal to obtain a PVG scheme record for anyone not carrying out a regulated role as it provides personal information you are not entitled to have access to.

WHAT TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION POLICY 1 of 2

- Identifying and reporting abuse and neglect is the responsibility of everyone not just people in regulated roles. Your policy should include clear guidance for recording, reporting and referring
- The PVG scheme is one part of what you do in order to keep children safe you should not think of it as your only obligation
- Even caring and well-intentioned support from an adult can be misconstrued by a vulnerable child - clear boundaries should be articulated in your policy

WHAT TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION POLICY 2 of 2

- Whilst enhanced training should be offered to anyone in a regulated role, everyone in the club including children should be aware of the safeguarding and child protection measures that you have in your policy. Ensure that the right environment is set up so that anyone with concerns will feel able to speak up
- Make sure that your policy sets out how you will support adults if an allegation is being investigated and they are temporarily removed from activity. Confidentiality is a key thing to consider.

USEFUL LINKS AND ORGANISATIONS - TRAINING & PVG SCHEME

- Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services for PVG scheme records, training and templates that you may find useful
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services>
- NSPCC training
https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/our-elearning-courses?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAkc28BhB0EiwAM001TZoDIHlbdF4icgH0bTS8shiOsZQJjQmQq4KWI8ncJvppoyJQ3e61qhoCYyYQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds
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USEFUL EXAMPLES OF SAFEGUARDING/ CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES

- SCDA Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- YTAS link to Creative Scotland & Children in Scotland Resource
<https://ytas.org.uk/resources/creating-safety/>
- Youth Scotland resources and templates
<https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/essential/youth-work-essentials-policies-and-procedures/>

USEFUL EXAMPLES OF SAFEGUARDING/ CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES

- NSPCC Online Safety

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety?_gl=1*1ekvvlq*_up*MQ..&gclid=CjwKCAiAkc28BhB0EiwAM001TZoDIHlbdF4icgH0bTS8shiOsZQJjQmQq4KWI8ncJvppoyJQ3e61qhoCYyYQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

- Scottish Youth Theatre Safeguarding

<https://scottishyouththeatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Safeguarding-Digital-Safeguarding-Policies-November-2024.pdf>