



# Child Protection Policy

## 1. Policy Statement

Child abuse is a global phenomenon. It occurs in all countries and in all societies. It involves the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children. It is nearly always preventable.

Maindee Festival Association believes that:

- Children have the right to a happy, healthy and secure childhood
- The abuse of children is an abuse of their rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Child abuse is *never* acceptable.

Maindee Festival Association will take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all children, young people & vulnerable adults participating in pre-festival workshop, the street parade and all Maindee Festival events from abuse.

## THE PROBLEM OF ABUSE

Child abuse is a global phenomenon. Maindee Festival Association works with many children and young people living in Newport, South Wales. Sadly, a proportion of these children will have experienced abuse, or will be at risk of abuse in one form or another. Maindee Festival Association's child protection policy recognises this fact and aims to ensure that the problem of child abuse and how to prevent it is addressed in every aspect of our work with and for children.

## MAINDEE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND CHILD ABUSE

Maindee Festival Association supports the vision of a world where the lives of all children reflect the international standards set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This includes the right to freedom from abuse and exploitation. The child protection policy aims to translate this commitment to children's rights into a practical reality through our work with children.

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Through its emphasis on prevention, the policy aims to minimise the risks of

children being abused. Maindee Festival Association will also do all it can to ensure that children who are being abused, or who are at risk of abuse, are supported and given protection. It is also possible that, on occasions, staff and others engaged by Maindee Festival Association or its partners to work with children, may pose a risk to children and abuse their position of trust. The policy demands the highest standards of professional practice in work with children and describes the values and principles that must underpin our approach to children.

## **MAINDEE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION'S POLICY COMMITMENT**

Maindee Festival Association's child protection policy covers all contact with children at any Maindee Festival Association event or activity.

We will ensure that our staff, volunteers, contractors, or partners:

- are aware of the problem of child abuse
- safeguard children from abuse through good practice
- report all concerns about possible abuse
- respond appropriately when abuse is discovered or suspected.

## **WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE POLICY?**

All staff, volunteers and other representatives of Maindee Festival Association must be familiar with the policy and be aware of the problem of abuse and the risks to children.

Everyone is responsible for defending the rights of children and, where possible, preventing any abuse of children.

This means raising any concerns you may have about the safety of children and/or the behaviour of adults.

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE OR SUSPECT POSSIBLE ABUSE?**

Beyond immediate action to intervene to protect a child in cases where actual or potential harm is directly witnessed at that time, as a small voluntary organisation we do not have the expertise or authority to act on behalf of a child at risk. You therefore should:

- discuss the matter with an officer of Maindee Festival Association or a trusted adult in the first instance to clarify your concern and then:
- Contact Newport City Council duty and social work team
- If there is a need for intervention out of hours, contact the police.

Concerns for the safety and wellbeing of children can arise in a variety of ways and in the whole range of different settings in which we work. For example, a child may tell you or display signs that they are being abused; someone may hint that a child is at risk or that a colleague is an abuser; you may witness or hear about abuse in another organisation.

If you have any suspicions or concerns regarding possible child abuse, or if there is anything with which you feel uncomfortable, you should raise these concerns with an officer of Maindee Festival Association or a trusted adult and then contact the Newport City Council duty and social work teams at [info@newport.gov.uk](mailto:info@newport.gov.uk) or telephone (01633) 656656.

In an emergency outside office hours contact the South East Wales Emergency duty team on:

Freephone 0800 328 4432

**The important thing is to act on your concerns!**

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