

# The Vauxhall Band Safeguarding Policy

Date of Last Review - 10th October 2025

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This is the Safeguarding Policy of The Vauxhall Band (“we”/”our”/”us”).

## Purpose

Our charitable activities include working with vulnerable people. The purpose of this policy is to protect them and provide stakeholders and the public with the overarching principles that guide our approach in doing so.

## Applicability

This policy applies to trustees and volunteers working directly for the charity. The charity doesn’t currently and isn’t expected to have direct employees. The policy will be revised if this situation changes.

The charity does engage self-employed musicians and others (“freelancers”) in the course of our activities on an ad hoc basis. This policy will be communicated to such people and they will be required in the terms of their engagement to comply with this policy. The charity will speak to, monitor and enforce compliance but does not automatically accept responsibility for the action and omissions of such parties.

Partner organisations (organisations that we may work with) will be required to have their own safeguarding procedures that must, as a minimum, meet the standards outlined below, and include any additional legal or regulatory requirements specific to their work. These include, but are not limited to other [UK regulators](#), if applicable.

Safeguarding should be appropriately reflected in other relevant policies and procedures.

## Principles

We believe that:

- Nobody who is involved in our work should ever experience abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation.

- We all have a responsibility to promote the welfare of those we work with, including volunteers, freelancers and those benefiting from our activities (“beneficiaries”), to keep them safe and to work in a way that protects them.
- We all have a collective responsibility for creating a culture in which our people not only feel safe, but also able to speak up, if they have any concerns.

## Types of Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, such as physical, psychological or emotional, financial, sexual or institutional abuse, including neglect and exploitation. Signs that may indicate the different types of abuse are at Appendix 1.

## Reporting Concerns

If a crime is in progress, or an individual in immediate danger, call the police, as you would in any other circumstances.

If you are a beneficiary, freelancer, or member of the public, make your concerns known to a member of our team, who will alert a senior member of the charity.

For volunteers make your concerns known to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees [secretary@thevauxhallband](mailto:secretary@thevauxhallband) who will then communicate this to the trustees.

The trustees are mindful of their reporting obligations to the Charity Commission in respect of [Serious Incident Reporting](#) and, if applicable, other regulators. They are aware of the Government [guidance on handling safeguarding allegations](#).

## Responsibilities

**Trustees.** This safeguarding policy will be reviewed and approved by the Board annually.

Trustees are aware of and will comply with the Charity Commission guidance on [safeguarding and protecting people](#) and also the [10 actions trustee boards need to take](#) to ensure good safeguarding governance.

The trustees have overall responsibility for the oversight of all aspects of safety, including whistleblowing and H&SW. This will include:

- Creating a culture of respect, in which everyone feels safe and able to speak up.
- An annual review of safety, with recommendations to the Board.
- Receiving regular reports, to ensure this and related policies are being applied consistently.
- Providing oversight of any lapses in safeguarding.

- And ensuring that any issues are properly investigated and dealt with quickly, fairly and sensitively, and any reporting to the Police/statutory authorities is carried out.
- Leading the organisation in a way that makes everyone feels safe and able to speak up.
- Ensuring safeguarding risk assessments are carried out and appropriate action taken to minimise these risks, as part of our risk management processes.
- Ensuring that all relevant checks are carried out in recruiting staff and volunteers.
- Planning programmes/activities to take into account potential safeguarding risks, to ensure these are adequately mitigated.
- Ensuring that all appointments that require DBS clearance and safeguarding training are identified, including the level of DBS and any training required.
- Ensuring that a central register is maintained and subject to regular monitoring to ensure that DBS clearances and training are kept up-to-date.
- Ensuring that safeguarding requirements (eg DBS) and responsibilities are reflected in job descriptions, appraisal objectives and personal development plans, as appropriate.
- Listening and engaging, beneficiaries, freelancers, volunteers and others and involving them as appropriate.
- Responding to any concerns sensitively and acting quickly to address these.
- Ensuring that personal data is stored and managed in a safe way that is compliant with data protection regulations, including valid consent to use any imagery or video.
- Making freelancers, volunteers and others aware of:
  - Our safeguarding procedures and their specific safeguarding responsibilities on induction, with regular updates/reminders, as necessary.
  - The signs of potential abuse and how to report these.

**Everyone.** To be aware of our procedures, undertake any necessary training, be aware of the risks and signs of potential abuse and, if you have concerns, to report these immediately (see above).

### **Fundraising**

We will ensure that:

- We comply with the [Code of Fundraising Practice](#), including [fundraising that involves children](#).
- Our fundraising material is accessible, clear and ethical, including not placing any undue pressure on individuals to donate.
- We do not either solicit nor accept donations from anyone whom we know or think may not be competent to make their own decisions.
- We are sensitive to any particular need that a donor may have.

### **Online Safety**

We will identify and manage online risks by ensuring:

- Volunteers and trustees understand how to keep themselves safe online. We may use high privacy settings and password access to meetings to support this.
- The online services we provide are suitable for our users. For example, use age restrictions and offer password protection to help keep people safe.
- The services we use and/or provide are safe and in line with our code of conduct.
- We protect people's personal data and follow data protection legislation.
- We have permission to display any images on our website or social media accounts, including consent from an individual, parent, etc.
- We clearly explain how users can report online concerns. Concerns may be reported using this policy, or direct to a social media provider using their reporting process. If you are unsure, you can contact one of [these organisations](#), who will help you.
- We have adopted and comply with the [Charity AI Ethics & Governance Framework](#).

## Online Safety Act

### If you host online forums or other communities where users can interact online

We apply proportionate measures to prevent children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content. If, which is not anticipated, we identify any such content, we will:

- We have carried out an illegal content risk assessment and
- Put in place measures to combat risks identified, including the risk of users encountering illegal harm and, potentially, using the service to facilitate or commission illegal content.

We also have measures in place to ensure we remove illegal content, including:

- Laura Piras, Artistic Director, leads on ensuring online safety is maintained.
- Any forum we establish or manage has easy-to-find, understandable terms and conditions and/or group rules.
- We have a complaints tool which allows users to report illegal or harmful material, and a complaints process to investigate such complaints.
- We have a process to monitor content and take it down quickly if it's inappropriate.

## Working With Other Organisations

In working with other organisations, including any grant making, we will comply with [Charity Commission guidance](#) by carrying out relevant due diligence and having a written agreement that sets out:

- Our relationship.
- The role of each organisation.
- Monitoring and reporting arrangements.

## Version Control - Approval and Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically, or following an incident, change in legislation, or other significant factors. It will also be reviewed as part of any safeguarding incident investigation, to test that it has been complied with and to see if any improvements might realistically be made to it.

Version No	Approved By	Approval Date	Main Changes	Review Period
1.0	Board	07/02/2025	Initial draft approved	Annually
2.0	Board	10/10/2025	Addition of Online Safety Act section. Changes to Statutory Guidance and Useful Links references	Annually

## Statutory Guidance

[Gov.UK – The role of other agencies in safeguarding](#)

[CC: Infographic; 10 actions trustees need to take.](#)

[CC: Safeguarding duties of charity trustees](#)

[CC: Safeguarding - policies and procedures](#)

[CC: How to protect vulnerable groups](#)

[CC: Managing online risk.](#)

[ICO - A 10 step guide to sharing information to safeguard children.](#)

[ICO - Children and the UK GDPR.](#)

[Ofcom: Online Safety Act - The Protection of Children Codes and Guidance. \(Apr 25\)](#)

## Useful Links

[NCVO: Online safeguarding resources.](#)

[NSPCC: Writing a safeguarding policy](#)

[Bates Wells: Is your charity ready for the Online Safety Act? \(Apr 25\)](#)

## Useful Links - International

[Bond - Developing and modelling a positive safeguarding culture: A tool for leaders.](#)

[CHS Alliance - Misconduct Disclosure Scheme.](#)

## Appendix 1 – Signs of Abuse

### Physical Abuse.

- bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, and rope marks.
- broken bones.
- open wounds, cuts, punctures, untreated injuries in various stages of healing.
- broken eyeglasses/frames, or any physical signs of being punished or restrained.
- laboratory findings of either an overdose or underdose medications.
- individual's report being hit, slapped, kicked, or mistreated.
- vulnerable adult's sudden change in behaviour.
- the caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see a vulnerable adult alone.

### Sexual Abuse.

- bruises around the breasts or genital area.
- unexplained venereal disease or genital infections.
- unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding.
- torn, stained, or bloody underclothing.
- an individual's report of being sexually assaulted or raped.

### Mental Mistreatment/Emotional Abuse.

- being emotionally upset or agitated.
- being extremely withdrawn and non-communicative or non-responsive.
- nervousness around certain people.
- an individual's report of being verbally or mentally mistreated.

### Neglect.

- dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores and poor personal hygiene.
- unattended or untreated health problems.
- hazardous or unsafe living condition (e.g., improper wiring, no heat or running water).
- unsanitary and unclean living conditions (e.g., dirt, fleas, lice on person, soiled bedding, faecal/urine smell, inadequate clothing).
- an individual's report of being mistreated.

### Self-Neglect.

- dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene.

- hazardous or unsafe living conditions.
- unsanitary or unclean living quarters (e.g., animal/insect infestation, no functioning toilet, faecal or urine smell).
- inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of the necessary medical aids.
- grossly inadequate housing or homelessness.
- inadequate medical care, not taking prescribed medications properly.

### **Exploitation.**

- sudden changes in bank account or banking practice, including an unexplained withdrawal of large sums of money.
- adding additional names on bank signature cards.
- unauthorised withdrawal of funds using an ATM card.
- abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents.
- unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions.
- bills unpaid despite the money being available to pay them.
- forging a signature on financial transactions or for the titles of possessions.
- sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming rights to a vulnerable adult's possessions.
- unexplained sudden transfer of assets to a family member or someone outside the family.
- providing services that are not necessary.
- individual's report of exploitation.

This policy has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of The Vauxhall Band amended on 10th October 2025 and will be reviewed annually, or more often if required.