

LEARNING

Chamber Music Scotland and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults

All those who take part in the Chamber Music Scotland Learning Programme must be made aware of the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy which exists in Scotland. All forms of care service including home care, residential care homes, nursing homes or other institutional settings should have this policy in place.

A vulnerable adult is any person aged 18 years or over who is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves or who is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. This may be because they have a mental health problem, a disability, a sensory impairment, are old and frail, or have some form of illness. Because of their vulnerability, the individual may be in receipt of a care service in their own home, in the community or be resident in a residential care home, nursing home or other institutional setting

All vulnerable adults have the right to

- live a life free from neglect, exploitation and abuse
- be protected from inhuman and degrading treatment
- support to make their own decisions and to give or withhold their consent to an activity or service
- engage in activities and offered services that enable them to fulfil their ability and potential
- be treated equally with their background and culture being valued and respected
- dignity and respect through recognition of uniqueness and personal needs
- liberty, privacy and security

CMS may send musicians to care service venues without having run a full PVG Disclosure check. It is the responsibility of the carer/care service in line with both their internal policies and those of the local authority to determine whether a PVG Disclosure should be carried out prior to the visit.

Sufficient staff supervision must be in place at all times during any event according to the policy of the hosting care service. It is the responsibility of the carer/care service to ensure that the musicians are at no time left alone with vulnerable adults as the musicians cannot be left in the role as primary carer.

Both the host organisation and musicians must adhere to the guidelines as detailed -

- Common sense and professional judgement are required at all times.
- Create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere whilst always remaining professional.
- Physical contact should be person-centered and appropriate to the task required.
- Be open to and aware of diversity in the beliefs and practices of vulnerable adults and their families.
- Be aware of the difficulties posed by language barriers and other communication difficulties.
- For elderly audiences, be aware of the difficulties posed by ageing. Talk slowly and clearly, allow time to process information.
- Activities should be accessible to all audience members who want to be involved. It is a good idea to ask in advance whether there are any individuals in the group who have particular needs. Please ensure that any of these conversations are undertaken sensitively and within a confidential setting.
- Stay aware of health and safety hazards. Make sure any equipment will not cause an accident and that there are no potential dangers in the activities delivered.
- Any photographs taken of the event/activity must be authorised in advance by the participating vulnerable adult/care provider. Where required, photo consent forms are available from CMS.