

## Child Protection Policy

*“Every child has the right to be protected and it is everyone’s responsibility to protect children”*

Petersfield Youth Theatre recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014, the Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Petersfield Youth Theatre (PYT) recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. PYT is committed to a practice which protects children and young people from harm. All committee members of PYT accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

Petersfield Youth Theatre believes that:

- The welfare of the member is paramount;
- All members, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse;
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
- All committee members and employees of PYT should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The Committee of Petersfield Youth Theatre will ensure that:

- All members will be treated equally and with respect and dignity;
- The welfare of each member will always be put first;
- A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers the members to share in the decision-making process;
- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism;
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned;
- All adults working with PYT will provide a positive role model for dealing with other people;
- Action will be taken to stop any verbal or physical behaviour;
- PYT aim to keep up-to-date with Health and Safety legislation;
- PYT will keep themselves informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of members.
- PYT will undertake relevant development and training;

- PYT will hold a register of every member and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

**Petersfield Youth Theatre has child protection procedures which accompany this policy.**

Petersfield Youth Theatre has a dedicated Child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to. That person's name is Lynn Hill (pro tem) and she can be contacted on 01730 266730.

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Executive Committee of Petersfield Youth Theatre and will be subject to annual review.

Date: July 2016