

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PROTECTION POLICY

The primary legislation relevant to arts organisations working with young people is the Children Act 1989. Under section 3(5) the responsibility of people other than parents ie. youth workers is described as doing what is reasonable for the purposes of safeguarding or promoting a child's welfare while the child is in his or her care. This is summarised as a Duty of Care.

The Duty of Care has been interpreted in case law as the duty to act as a careful parent would. Duty of care requires a youth leader or other professional to ensure that no injury or loss is caused to a young person, by failing to carry out his or her responsibilities in a careful and reasonable way. This is also a duty to exercise adequate supervision.

The Children Act defines children as 0-18 year olds.

Most recent legislation governing work with children and young people is the sex offenders act 1997 and Part V of the Police Act 1997. The latter includes provision for the establishment of a Criminal Records Bureau to undertake criminal record checks on anyone wishing to work with children and young people.

## POSITION STATEMENT

In accordance with the above legislation Reactivate aims to safeguard the welfare of children and young people participating in its arts activities and commits to good practise which protects children and young people from harm . In doing so it will take account of and comply with current legislation and best practise.

## POLICY.

We are aware of and regularly update our volunteers on issues of Health and Safety. Activities, buildings and visits to other locations, trips etc are all assessed for risk and strategies put in place to secure the safety of all children in our care.

We have action plans for the event of fire and accident and have fire extinguishers and first aid boxes regularly checked and re stocked ,we have a registered first aider and accident book.

We have an understanding of the issues of assault and abuse and follow guidelines set out by the Local authority in the event that either is suspected.

All volunteers must provide evidence of identity and work history and are vetted in accordance with the Protection of Children Act. References are taken up.

Ratio of volunteers to children to be kept at a sensible level with additional floating staff to act as assistants where necessary.

Clear guidelines are set out for the conduct and behaviour of volunteers including a reminder of their duty to prevent harm, procedures to express concerns both formally and informally, health and safety procedures.

A record of each child is submitted by parents with emergency contact details and information of their special needs.

Training sessions and meetings are regularly held to update volunteers on current legislation, policy and procedures