



## Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups within the RSPBA

### Introduction

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. The RSPBA is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

This policy will apply to **all children up the age of 16 years** and **adults at risk**.

*An adult at risk is someone who is aged 16 years and over who:*

- *Is unable to safeguard his/her own wellbeing, property, rights or other interests*
- *and is at risk of harm*
- *and who may be affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, and more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected*

This policy refers to activities undertaken by individuals who are engaged either in a paid or unpaid capacity to undertake duties on behalf of RSPBA Headquarters. The policy applies to regulated work as defined in the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.

**The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association** aims to ensure that all **children** and adults at risk are kept safe from harm while they are engaged in RSPBA sponsored activities.

***The Policy is based on the understanding that:***

- the welfare of the child or adult at risk is paramount
- all children and adults at risk, 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 and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- all RSPBA personnel engaged in RSPBA activities that bring them into contact with children and adults at risk, have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate services (Social Work Services or Police) and to inform RSPBA Chief Executive
- RSPBA personnel, are not trained to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred. Any concerns should be reported immediately to the Police or Social Services.

### **Policy aims.**

The aim of the RSPBA Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups is to promote good practice by;

- providing children and adults at risk with appropriate safety and protection whilst involved in RSPBA activities;
- encouraging and supporting all personnel to make informed and confident responses to specific issues in relation to protecting children and adults at risk.

- providing guidance and support to Branches, Bands, members, parents and carers in matters relating to this policy

## **Recruitment and training of instructors and Assessors**

The RSPBA recognises that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that those who have regular contact with children, young people and adults at risk through our education programme do not have a known history of harmful behaviour. In order to achieve this, we will ensure that our instructors and assessors are carefully selected, screened, trained and supervised.

The screening of instructors and assessors will be undertaken through The Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme in Scotland. (0870 609 6006

or contact [pvg.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pvg.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk))

Therefore, **The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association** will endeavor to protect children and adults at risk by:

1. adopting this Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups within the RSPBA and encouraging personnel to sign up to the Guidance on Good Practice.
2. appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer
3. ensuring that all instructors and assessors carrying out education activities on behalf of RSPBA Headquarters are members of the PVG Scheme.
4. following carefully the good practice procedures for safe recruitment and selection of instructors and assessors including, where appropriate, initiating and renewing PVG membership. This will ensure that there is no known historical reason which prevents our instructors and assessors from carrying out regulated work.
5. providing appropriate levels of training, support and supervision of instructors and assessors
6. managing instructors and assessors effectively and appropriately;
7. maintaining appropriate procedures for reporting safeguarding concerns;
8. making and keeping securely accurate records of any allegations or suspicions of abuse;
9. handling any disclosures of abuse in an appropriate manner;
10. reporting allegations of abuse to the police/social services involving parents, carers and children as appropriate;
11. sharing information regarding safeguarding and good practice with children, parents and volunteers;
12. ensuring adherence to safety procedures.
13. providing guidance on our website and offering support and training to Branches, Bands, members, parents and carers in matters relating to this policy.

**Reporting Abuse**

**The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association** understands that in addition to making a referral (a written report) to Disclosure Scotland, safeguarding issues concerning our instructors and assessors must always be referred to the appropriate agencies (i.e. social work and/or police) for appropriate investigation. Any issues of a criminal nature will be reported to the police.

**The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association** will ensure that all personnel involved in recruitment, training and supervision, are aware of this policy and have received appropriate training and support to ensure its full implementation.

**The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association** recognizes that it is an offence to offer regulated work to someone who is barred from working with children or adults at risk. Furthermore, it is also an offence if the Association fails to remove a person from regulated work if the Association has been notified that the individual is barred. Finally, it is an offence if **The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association** fails to refer an individual to Disclosure Scotland where the grounds have been met.

This policy was adopted by **The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association at a meeting held**

**on** ..... **in** .....

**Name**.....

**Chairperson of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association**

**Signature**.....

**Name**.....

**Chief Executive of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association**

**Signature**.....