



Master Rhythm Studios Vulnerable Adult and Child Safeguarding Policy

Last reviewed June 2025

Master Rhythm Studios is committed to safeguarding the rights, well-being and safety of children and vulnerable adults who come into contact with the organisation. This policy outlines the steps Master Rhythm Studios will take to ensure that vulnerable adults and children are protected. It will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Safeguarding Lead.

Definitions (for this document):

Safeguarding: Master Rhythm Studios follows the definition of safeguarding as:

- Protecting from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of health or development
- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

Vulnerable adult:

A person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves, or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. Vulnerable adults are entitled to: privacy; be treated with dignity; lead an independent life and be enabled to do so; be able to choose how they lead their lives; the protection of the law; have their rights upheld regardless of ethnic origin, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religion or cultural background.

Child:

Describes a child aged 0-17 years old

Types of abuse:

- Physical abuse is an act of another party involving contact intended to cause feelings of physical pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm.
- Sexual abuse is forcing undesired sexual behaviour by one person onto another.
- Emotional abuse is any kind of abuse that is emotional rather than physical in nature. It can include anything from verbal abuse and constant criticism to more subtle tactics, such as intimidation, manipulation, and refusal to ever be pleased.
- Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a person's basic needs.
- Financial abuse is the misuse of a person's money, property or assets through theft or fraud.

Policy Statement:

Master Rhythm Studios project teams want to restore dignity and revive hope to people from all walks of life. We are concerned with individuals and their circumstances and actively encourage an inclusive environment throughout all our projects and activities.

We seek to ensure that all our team members are aware of what is required from them under the vulnerable adult and child protection policy and make sure that it is practised at all times.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to play our part in preventing the physical, sexual, spiritual, financial or emotional abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and children. We commit ourselves to co-operate fully with the appropriate statutory services when they are conducting official investigation into the abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults, children or young people (by an adult or young person).

This statement is to be brought to the attention of all staff and volunteers when they join, as part of their induction programme. Any amendments will be brought to the attention of all team members.

The statement will be displayed at all locations in which Master Rhythm Studios operates and all team members will be asked to sign to say they have read it.

Implementation:

MASTER RHYTHM STUDIOS SHALL:

Plan its work so as to minimise situations where the abuse of vulnerable adults and children might occur. Although the number of people who actively seek to abuse vulnerable adults and children is very small, Master Rhythm Studios can reduce opportunities for abuse in various ways. We will, for instance:

- Ensure that there is adequate supervision for all vulnerable adults and children.
- Ensure that any vulnerable adult or child working with Master Rhythm Studios is aware of who they can talk to if they have concerns.
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers know what to do the case of emergencies.
- Arrange that an adult is not left alone with a child where there is little or no opportunity of the activity being observed by others. This good practice can be of as much benefit to the adult as the child.
- Make sure the Safeguarding Lead receive correct and up-to-date training.
- Ensure that the Local Authority is informed of any safeguarding allegations, incidents or concerns.
- Ensure staff and volunteers who may come into contact with a vulnerable adult or child at Master Rhythm Studios are suitably trained, including understanding what to do in the event that a disclosure of abuse is made.
- Encourage a culture of transparency, ensuring that volunteers and staff feel able and empowered to report any suspicious or concerning behaviour.

Volunteers should be aware that wherever they are located when volunteering for Master Rhythm Studios, they are legally governed by the organisation, even if the place in which they are working is outside of Master Rhythm Studios.

It is important that everyone in Master Rhythm Studios is aware that the person who first encounters a case of alleged or suspected abuse is not responsible for deciding whether or not abuse has occurred. That is a task for the professional vulnerable adult and child protection agencies following a referral to them of concern about someone.

If a vulnerable adult or child begins making a disclosure of abuse to a team member who feels unable to cope with what they are hearing, they should gently halt the conversation and contact the Safeguarding Lead immediately.

The wellbeing of staff and volunteers is of great importance. If a disclosure has been made which has caused upset to the person hearing it, Master Rhythm Studios will endeavour to offer or facilitate counselling or support if requested.

Any allegations or concerns of abuse must be reported to the Safeguarding Lead.

Designated officers and their roles:

Master Rhythm Studios has a designated Safeguarding Lead who is responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of vulnerable adults and children. The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Master Rhythm Studios is Darren Hasson-Davis who can be contacted at 07765 224245 email darren@masterrhythm.co.uk. The Safeguarding Lead will keep a record of any concerns or incidents.

Where necessary and appropriate, the Safeguarding Lead will report a safeguarding concern using the Oxfordshire County Council online reporting form at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/social-and-health-care/adult-social-care/reporting-concern> or in an emergency will contact the police

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed at least annually and whenever there are any legislative changes or amendments to guidance issued by relevant statutory bodies.