



## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR THE ARTS SOCIETY PEWSEY VALE** **(A MEMBER SOCIETY)**

***THIS POLICY ALSO APPLIES TO ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE***

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (registered charity number 1089743; registered company number 04307984) operating as 'The Arts Society' recognises that each individual has the right to be treated equitably and without prejudice. Every individual has a responsibility to respect and uphold that right. This means that all members of the Member Society, volunteers and any other stakeholders have the right to feel comfortable and to be safe and secure in a welcoming and inclusive environment and in particular when attending events or engaging in activities organised by its Member Societies.
- 1.2 The Arts Society encourages all its members to be mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on its website (which may be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charities-how-to-protect-vulnerable-groups-including-children>), to make safeguarding a key priority and to recognise its duty of care to all those who attend its events.
- 1.3 This policy applies to all members of the Committee (as defined in 2 below) and any other persons volunteering or working within the Member Society and this policy should therefore be provided promptly to all such persons when they begin their involvement or work (whether paid or unpaid) with the Member Society.
- 1.4 This policy should be reviewed annually by the Committee.
- 1.5 The purpose of this policy is:-
  - 1.5.1 to protect all those who are vulnerable who come to events organised by the Member Society (or are involved in any way with the services or activities it provides) but for the avoidance of doubt this document is not envisaged as normally including children because the Member Society's activities predominantly do not involve children; and
  - 1.5.2 to provide the Committee and any volunteers with the overarching principles and practical information which guides the Member Society's approach to safeguarding.

### **2. Committee of The Arts Society Pewsey Vale (Member Society)**

The Committee is the group of persons which is elected on such terms as the Member Society shall determine in order to administer and govern the Member Society in accordance with its Constitution.

### 3. Definition of Safeguarding

3.1 'Safeguarding' is a term used to describe how we protect individuals from abuse or neglect. It is about protecting certain people who may be in vulnerable circumstances. These people may be at risk of abuse or neglect due to the action (or lack of action) of another person. The Arts Society recognises that individuals may feel vulnerable for a variety of reasons which may include:

- Age
- Gender
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Religious beliefs
- Race
- Ill health (physical and/or mental)

3.2 A vulnerable person should never experience abuse of any kind. The Committee has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all such people who are involved in the work or activities of the Member Society and to keep them safe.

3.3 Those who raise safeguarding concerns should be treated with understanding and respect, as should the person(s), if any, against whom a complaint is made.

### 4. Upholding of Principles

4.1 To ensure the principles outlined in clause 3 are upheld, the Committee or Lead Responsible Person nominated by the Committee from time to time will adhere to the following procedures:

4.1.1 Where a safeguarding concern exists, any member or other person may raise it directly **on a strictly confidential basis** with:-

- a) the Lead Responsible Person, Kathryn Hutchinson, 01672 563817, [hutchclutch@btinternet.com](mailto:hutchclutch@btinternet.com)
- or b) with any member of the Committee, without delay subject to 4.1.2

4.1.2 If the complaint relates to a Committee member, the other members (or Secretary/Lead Responsible Person) of the Committee may inform such Committee member that a complaint has been made but such Committee member must then be absented from any part of any Committee meeting at which the complaint is discussed and strict confidentiality should be observed at all times in the interests of a fair investigation of such complaint.

4.1.3 In the event of a complaint being made to a member of the Committee, there is a responsibility on that Committee member to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that a safeguarding concern has arisen and to explain how that was resolved. If the matter has not been resolved, the Committee will consider at the earliest opportunity how to resolve the matter appropriately.

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- 4.1.4 If the Committee does not feel it has the necessary knowledge or skills appropriately to deal with the concern then they should contact the Chief Executive of The Arts Society immediately.
- 4.1.5 The complainant will be supported (unless they choose to decline such support) throughout the investigation of the complaint by a designated Committee member.

## **5. Action**

### **5.1 If a crime is suspected either to have been or be likely to be committed then the matter must be reported to the police without delay.**

### 5.2 Action relating to a safeguarding concern could include:

- 5.2.1 Informal resolution of complaints between the parties
- 5.2.2 Formal warning from the Committee as to the conduct of the individual
- 5.2.3 A request for the individual to resign from membership either from The Arts Society or from the Member Society
- 5.2.4 Such other action as may be agreed between the parties; and
- 5.2.5 The Committee must pass on the reporting of the safeguarding incident to The Arts Society as soon as reasonably practicable to enable The Arts Society to fulfil its duty to report serious incidents (which include safeguarding incidents and reports) to the Charity Commission.

## **6. Sharing Information**

- 6.1 The Committee acknowledges that it and/or the Member Society may from time to time handle sensitive personal information about people including personal identity information and information about health and financial issues.
- 6.2 All members of the Committee and any volunteers must work together to ensure that there is no unauthorised access, loss, misuse, amendment or disclosure of this information.
- 6.3 When safeguarding individuals at risk, the Committee may be required to share personal or sensitive information with someone from another organisation. The Committee will only do this where the law requires it, or where sharing the information is in the complainant's best interests, including where it might prevent a crime taking place, subject always to the need to comply with all applicable data protection legislation.
- 6.4 Where a person's 'vital interests' (that is, a question of life or death) are involved, the Committee acknowledges that finding out facts through sharing information is of overriding importance.
- 6.5 Subject to 6.3, if the Committee (or any person or organisation to which it may delegate this role from time to time) intends to share personal or sensitive information they will do it (wherever possible) with that person's agreement.
- 6.6 The Committee will always share information which safeguards vulnerable adults or on a 'need to know' basis. The Committee will take care to make sure any such shared information is correct.

## 7. Record Keeping and Confidentiality

- 7.1 All safeguarding complaints shall be treated as confidential, unless the Committee resolves that it is in the best interests of The Arts Society or the Member Society, or it has a legal obligation to do otherwise, **subject always** to the need to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and other relevant data protection legislation from time to time.
- 7.2 This policy document should be easily accessible whenever required. A copy of this document should be kept in the records of The Arts Society Pewsey Vale held by the Secretary and online at [www.theartssociety-pewseyvale.com](http://www.theartssociety-pewseyvale.com)
- 7.3 Any written records of safeguarding matters must be kept securely by the Committee and destroyed securely when no longer required.

## 8. Further Information

Further information around safeguarding is available from the Charity Commission and is regularly updated :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-for-dealing-with-safeguarding-issues-in-charities>

January 2021

*The Arts Society Pewsey Vale*  
[www.theartssociety-pewseyvale.com](http://www.theartssociety-pewseyvale.com)

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Vulnerable Persons Safeguarding Incident Report Form**

**This should be used for any Vulnerable Persons, including Children and Young People**

Please fill in as much of this form as possible and return it to the Lead Responsible Person (detailed in 4.1.1) as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the occurrence of the incident or disclosure).

**N.B. Just record the exact facts you have been made aware of and do not attempt to investigate or question further.**

All information will be treated strictly in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and any other relevant data protection legislation from time to time. Any information provided in connection with the complaint, including the details included in this form, will only be processed by The Arts Society Pewsey Vale Member Society with the consent of the complainant for the purposes of investigating the complaint and will not be shared with any third parties without the consent of the complainant unless to do so is required in accordance with the terms of clause 6 in the Member Society's Safeguarding Policy which is attached to this form. Any such information will be held securely by the Committee and will be destroyed as soon as the matter has been fully and finally resolved.

**Name and position of person reporting abuse:**

**Date and time of completion of form:**

**Date and time of the incident/disclosure:**

**Person's name (who has suffered the safeguarding incident):**

**Person's date of birth or approximate age:**

Person's address:

Name (s) and address of carer (if appropriate):

*When completing the information below, please continue onto a separate sheet if necessary.*

**Please describe your concerns here** (give details of location, times of specific incidents, any physical, behavioural or indirect signs and the people involved).

**Have you spoken to the vulnerable person/s involved? If so, what exactly was said?**  
(please record details in the person's own words) **NB. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER:**

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<b>Action taken so far:</b>
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**Signature:** ..... (PERSON MAKING THE COMPLAINT)

**Date:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Signature:** .....(PERSON RECORDING THE COMPLAINT)

**Date:** .....

**Name:** .....