**SPRING GROVE FRINGE (SGF)**

Safeguarding policy statement

Note: The terms ‘child’, ‘children’ and ‘young person’ describe any person under the age of 18.

**Our statement**

Our organisation acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults. It is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and vulnerable adults.:

· have a positive and enjoyable experience at SGF in a safe environment

· are protected from abuse whilst participating in any production or outside of the activity at SGF.

We acknowledge that some children and vulnerable adults, including deaf and disabled or those from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

**Our policy**

**What we’ll do**

As part of our safeguarding policy we will:

· promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and vulnerable adults

· value, listen to and respect children and vulnerable adults

· ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation

· adopt safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct

· ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people and vulnerable adults

· provide effective support, training and quality assurance measures so that all members know about our policies, procedures and behaviour codes and follow them confidently and competently

· ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of all incidents or concerns, from lower-level concerns and poor practice to more serious abuse,

· provide support to the individual(s) who raise or report the concern

· ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored

· record and store information securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner’s Office]

· appoint a nominated safeguarding lead for children and young people and vulnerable adults, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding

· make sure that children, young people and their parents and vulnerable adults know where to go for help if they have a concern

The policy and procedures will be widely available and are mandatory for everyone involved in SGF. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation.

**Monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

· changes in legislation and/or government guidance

· as a result of any other significant change or event.

This policy was last reviewed on ………………………………. [Date]

Signed ……………………………………………………………………

(Position held)