



SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Working with children, young people and adults at risk can be hugely beneficial for both the individuals and the activity groups or events involved. It also comes with a responsibility for group contacts or event organisers to ensure they provide a safe environment and that any children, young people and adults at risk are protected.

Letchworth Arts and Leisure Group (LALG) has a Safeguarding policy and agreed safeguarding procedures and guidelines which must be adhered to by all Members and volunteers. They can be found on the website or a copy requested from the Secretary.

In addition, set out below are some other issues to bear in mind.

Membership Rules

According to its constitution Letchworth Arts and Leisure Group is open to all members of a household that has paid the annual subscription. For the avoidance of doubt, all persons aged 18 and over are included in that household. Children and young people under 18 are not included in the household and are therefore not entitled to attend LALG activity groups or events.

Social events

Most LALG social events will be for adults only, but occasionally LALG may run events for its Members and/or the general public which are open to families. Children and young people attending these should be accompanied by a responsible adult and will not be admitted on their own.

Specific events

Children/young people/adults at risk may attend LALG specific events, such as a children's tea party or a coffee club for older adults, if they are accompanied by a responsible adult throughout. If they are not, they will not be admitted.

Anyone proposing to run an event for unaccompanied children/young people/adults at risk should speak to the Named Safeguarding Person to ensure that safeguarding procedures are met and neither children/young people/adults at risk nor the event organisers themselves are put at risk.

Children/young people attending activity groups and other events

Children and young people under 18 are not entitled to join activity groups. They are also not entitled to attend other LALG events unless the event is specified as open to them, as set out in the section on specific events above. This is because activity groups and events

may not be suitable for children and young people and safeguarding arrangements will not be in place.

If a LALG member wishes to bring a child/young person to an activity group or event they should discuss the matter with the Group Contact or event organiser **before** attending.

The Group Contact or event organiser should consider:

- Whether the event is suitable for a child/young person. For example:
 - It would not be suitable for them to attend an activity group or event involving alcohol.
 - Some physical activities may be too strenuous.
 - The subject matter of a discussion might be inappropriate.
- Whether the dynamics of the activity group or event might be damaged, or the presence of a child/young person might be distracting.
- Whether the inclusion of another person might breach agreed numbers (e.g. for a trip)/

The Group Contact or event organiser can refuse to allow the child/young person to attend the activity group or event.

Adults at risk

Adults at risk in a household where the LALG subscription has been paid are entitled to attend activity groups and events. To meet safeguarding requirements they should be accompanied by a responsible adult and, as a courtesy, the Group Contact or event organiser should be contacted in advance so that suitable arrangements can be made. Any information provided about an adult at risk will be treated as confidential.

Licensing

Although this will probably not apply to LALG events, in certain circumstances a licence is needed from the Local Authority if children/young people appear in musical or theatrical events (although not if this is organised through a school and a teacher accompanies the children/young people during the event). If you propose to pay a child/young person, charge for tickets or serve alcohol you should seek further advice.

Further information

If you need any further information on any safeguarding issue, please contact the Named Safeguarding Person at safeguarding@lalq.org.uk

This statement was reaffirmed by the Committee at its meeting on 25 July 2022