**Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children- child protection policy**

Lollipop Youth Theatre recognises the need to develop an awareness of issues that can cause harm to children and young people.

Lollipop Youth Theatre is vigilant to the possibilities of risk to the children and young people and endeavours to provide a self and welcoming environment where they can feel safe and stimulated in relation to performing and practise of theatrical skills in amateur theatre.

Any company member who is still at schoolwill need to be signed in and out of rehearsals each week.

If parents/carers wish their child to leave unaccompanied then a letter giving us consent will be required.

Lollipop Youth Theatre acknowledges that when referring to children and young people under the age of 18 we have a duty of care. We will take actions if there are any signs of abuse and maltreatment of our young people. Abuse and maltreatment can take many forms, whether it is physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.

The welfare of our members is paramount whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and sexual identity and it is our job to protect our members.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously, and we will respond promptly and efficiently.

As a company, we will regularly liaise with parents/carer about any concerns we may have if and where appropriate.

We ask parents to complete registration forms that’s hold vital information for us to be able to meet individual’s needs whilst in our care and ask parents/carers to keep us up to date of any changes or amendments there may be.

At every rehearsal, we have at least three licensed chaperones, and at least one person with first aid training.

The company also has a named safeguarding officer and a deputy safeguarding officer.

**Safeguarding Officer- Holly Smith (Fields)**

**Deputy Safeguarding Officer- Rebecca Fearnley**

Their role is to….

\*Advise the society of correct procedure and answer any queries

\*Liaise with relevant agencies at the time of referral and complete all paperwork and meeting required.

\*Ensure that the information is factual and available to assist the relevant agencies with an investigation.

During shows every child whether they are on license or not will be with a licensed chaperone and escorted around and will be expected to be signed in and out by a parent/carer.

Under no circumstance will a child who is licensed be allowed to leave without this, and a letter required if anyone but named parent/carer is collecting.

**Lollipop youth theatre named county council chaperone list regularly used.**

Holly Smith (Fields)- *Owner and Director of Lollipop Youth Theatre- Safeguarding Officer, paediatric first aid trained.*

Rebecca Fearnley – *Vocal coach- Deputy Safeguarding Officer, first aid trained.*

Chaperones- *(All chaperones have regular safeguarding training and are all DBS checked)*