

## **M.A.D. Group Child Protection Policy**

The MAD group recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, The Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

The Group recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. The Group is committed to practice which protects children from harm. All members of the Group accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

The Group believes that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All members of the Group should be clear on how to respond appropriately.

The Group will ensure that:

- All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity
- The welfare of each child will be put first.
- A balanced relationship based on mutual trust will be built which empowers children to share in the decision making process
- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism.
- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned.
- All adult members of the Group provide a positive role model for dealing with other people.
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour
- It will keep up to date with health and safety legislation
- It will keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children.
- It will hold a register of every child involved with the Group and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies.

The Group has child protection procedures in support of this policy

The Group has a dedicated child Protection Officer, who is in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy and procedures are adhered to. The person's name is Claire Tapper and she can be contacted on 01548856775.

This policy will be regularly monitored by the Committee and will be subject to annual review.