

18. Safeguarding Children & Young People



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Event organisers have a responsibility to consider the needs of children and young people, even if the event itself is not aimed at them, as children may accompany adults.

Publicity material should indicate if an event is not suitable for children; if they need to be accompanied by an adult; or if children under a certain age will not be allowed to enter.

The overarching responsibility must always be to ensure that children are kept safe and free from harm.

A range of sample policies, guidance documents, tool kits and advice documentation can be found on the Internet. However, these should only be used as guidance as there are laws and licensing requirements governing activities for children and event organisers need to be mindful of the specific nature of their event.

At events where children are present, and especially with programmed events for children, there is always likely to be a need for adult supervision and help. It is essential to ensure that these adults are suitable to undertake this work and have the experience and knowledge to deal with young children.

Generally if those dealing with children are not known to the event organiser, they should be Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked. Event organisers may also consider requesting references from events where they have worked previously.

There may also be local requirements for safeguarding children which may be more specific than national guidelines.

Even if workers have DBS checks, there should always be safeguards in place to protect children.

Event organisers should also consider obtaining insurance cover for those working with children and the activities taking place.

More detailed information about the above can be found in the Purple Guide at www.thepurpleguide.co.uk (<http://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk>)