

Charmborough Bell Trust - Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Throughout this document the terms "young people" and "young person" refer to individuals under the age of 18.

The Trustees of the Charmborough Bell Trust recognise that the Charmborough Ring may be used by the Trust or made available to other organisations for demonstration and teaching purposes that are likely to involve young people.

Throughout this document the term "event" refers to events using the Charmborough Ring and/or organised by the Charmborough Bell Trust.

The Trustees have a responsibility to ensure that young people are appropriately protected and that they and their parents or guardians can have confidence that young people can attend events in safety.

General principles

All people attending events are entitled to be confident that in doing so they will not suffer harm. "Harm" includes any form of physical, mental or sexual abuse, injury through the reckless or irresponsible behaviour of others, bullying, intimidation etc. Whilst this principle applies to everyone, particular care is needed when young people attend events. What may be acceptable behaviour between mature adults could result in harm for young people.

All who participate in these events have a responsibility to ensure that the above principles are adhered to and that young people in particular are not put at risk. All have a responsibility to provide an environment at events which protects young people from harm. If anyone observes any behaviour which could constitute a breach of these principles they should take appropriate action, including informing the organiser of the event.

Practical considerations

In accordance with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the Trustees of the Charmborough Bell Trust carry out a "regulated activity" and, as such, are vetted by the Criminal Record Bureau (CRB).

Events involving the Charmborough Ring and/or the Charmborough Bell Trust do not normally involve repeated close contact with young people on frequent occasions, and do not, therefore, carry the risk of opportunities for "grooming" by those who might wish to harm young people.

Furthermore, events normally involve numbers of young people and adults together and in public where there would be little opportunity for anyone to put young people at harm.

Young people attending events should normally be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other responsible adult. Where a young person attends an event unaccompanied, or is accompanied by someone other

than a parent or guardian, reference should be made to the parent(s) or guardian(s) in the case of doubt. The age of the person concerned may be taken into consideration when deciding whether to raise an enquiry, particularly when they are approaching their 18th birthday, are generally mature, are known to a significant number of those attending and/or are known to attend ringing events on their own.

Event organisers are responsible for ensuring that young people are properly protected. This includes ensuring that clothing is suitable for the activity concerned, that there is no touching or other behaviour which could be considered a sexual advance, that no inappropriate remarks are made, including sexual innuendoes or correction which could be interpreted as bullying, that they are not left alone with an adult other than a parent or guardian and that their ringing is supervised at a level consistent with their age and experience.

If a known child offender presents themselves as a helper for activities when young people will be present, then the event organiser should ensure that the individual is declined participation.

Where a person is seen to be behaving in a manner which could cause harm to a young person this should be reported to a Trustee or the event organiser and, in cases of doubt, the individual will not be allowed to participate.

Offenders

Only a very small number of ringers have been convicted of offences against young people. In at least one case, conditions have been applied by the court which restrict their ability to take part in mixed-age activities.

It is the Trust's policy that where there is a choice between restricting the activity of offenders or restricting young people, the former will be selected.

Maintenance of this Policy

The Trustees have responsibility for maintaining this Policy and for keeping up to date with developments in child protection legislation.