**Sidmouth Gospel Choir Safeguarding Policy**

**Legal Content**

The Law requires any organization involving young people and vulnerable adults to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risk of harm to their welfare is minimized and where there are concerns, to share them with other local agencies.

Sidmouth Gospel choir recognizes that it is not the role of our organization to decide whether a person has been abused or not. This is the role of the Social Services who have legal responsibility to investigate.

**General Practice**

In developing this policy, Sidmouth Gospel Choir has taken input from the national amateur music performance association, Making Music.

**Who are children and vulnerable adults?**

In this context anyone up to the age of 19 is a child and anyone over the age of 18 years who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation is a vulnerable adult.

**How Sidmouth choir Operates.**

Sidmouth Gospel Choir is composed of choir members. We have a team who form a committee. Rehearsals are run by our choir leader or substitute, when needed. On occasions we use paid accompanists.

SGC does not advertise itself as an activity suitable for children or vulnerable adults. Most of our choir are independent adults.

Our rehearsals and performances are group activities and there is no need for a member of the choir to be alone with another member of any age. SGC therefore is unlikely to be targeted by a person seeking opportunities to abuse children or vulnerable adults. SGC recognizes the need to safeguard members and the committee have therefore agreed to the following:-

The Sidmouth Gospel Choir will its policy on its website and draw it to the attention of all new members.

SGC have nominated a Designated Person, Suzanne Phillpotts, who choir members can contact if they have any concerns.

In the absence of the Designated Person, the matter can be brought to the attention of the Choir Leader.

This policy and procedure will be reviewed at a team/committee meeting, annually.

Signed by the Treasurer, J. K. Waller, on behalf of Sidmouth Gospel Choir