

## **Dorset Chamber Choir (DCC) - Health & Safety (H & S)**

(August 2023)

Dorset Chamber Choir (DCC) is a voluntary non-profit making choir singing a wide variety of choral works and is a registered charity. Its members number approximately 20/25. It is led by a Committee, comprising Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Music Director (advisory member) and two other members having other responsibilities eg for publicity, internet and other functions. The Committee is ultimately responsible for the Health and Safety of the choir. The Chair is currently nominated as the individual responsible for this policy and its implementation. The Committee may delegate Health and Safety duties as appropriate from time to time ensuring clear roles and responsibilities are established for those involved.

Dorset Chamber Choir's policy is to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of all its members and others who are involved with the choir by ensuring that the choir's activities are carried out in healthy and safe conditions. The Chair will assume a leading role in Health and Safety issues at all venues used by the choir for rehearsals and concerts and in the Chair's absence (and with the Committee's approval) another person will be delegated to that role.

Specific objectives are -

1. To promote high standards of health safety and welfare for the choir and others in contact with it that comply with current Health and Safety legislation, relevant statutory provision and best codes of practice.
2. To ensure safe means of access and exit in all places where the choir meets
3. To provide and maintain safe and healthy environments, equipment and procedures for choir members and others involved in its activities
4. To provide such information, training and supervision as is needed for this purpose
5. To identify specific risks for members with individual health conditions and with their collaboration identify means to mitigate clear hazards to themselves and others. This data to be maintained in confidence between the Committee and the members involved and those caring for them and stored securely.

In the pursuit of these objectives Dorset Chamber Choir expects all members and others involved with the choir to give their support and co-operation to create healthy and safe conditions in which the choir can practise and perform. The Committee will encourage the development of a 'Safety Culture' where everyone takes all reasonable measures to care for their own wellbeing and that of others.

Sites used by the Dorset Chamber Choir for practice and performances will have their own approved Health and Safety protocols for their premises and equipment to which the choir will conform as appropriate but significant hazards and risks identified at any venue will be assessed and dealt with by the Chair or person nominated for the 'leading role' on that occasion and risks assessed and reduced accordingly.

Many Dorset Chamber Choir members are of retirement age with the consequential hazards and risks that age may bring. Dorset Chamber Choir is committed to maintaining an awareness of such age-related issues as deteriorating sight, hearing, physical stability, mobility etc., and supporting members in difficulty in whatever reasonably practical measures may be appropriate.