**NEEMF Child Safeguarding**

**What is safeguarding?**

Under the law (Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004) and government guidance on how

organisations should work together, voluntary groups have a responsibility to contribute to the

safeguarding of the children with whom they work, to act on any concerns that a child is at

risk of abuse and make sure that the way they work does not place children at unacceptable

risk of harm.

**Safeguarding**: the process of protecting children from harm - whether the harm is caused by

accidents, deliberate abuse (physical, emotional, sexual), neglect, bullying, discrimination or

prejudice or failure to help children take part in activities that are open to most of their peers.

**Safeguards:** measures put in place to help reduce the risk of children and young people

being harmed.

**Five Step Plan**

1. **Named Person for Child Protection**

NEEMF to name one of the committee as the named person for child protection policy. This person should be responsible for keeping up to date with child protection information and disseminating this to the committee.

1. **A child protection policy**

A policy to be written and approved

1. **Writing procedures**

Basic safeguarding procedures to be written, including what happens in the event that a child is harmed.

1. **Employing the right people**

As NEEMF does not employ anyone who will be undertaking a regulated activity relating to children on a **regular** basis, there seems to be no requirement for any of the volunteers or workshop leaders to have a DBS check.

**The new Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

Regulated activity relating to children now comprises:

(i) Unsupervised activities: teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children, or provide

advice/guidance on well-being, or drive a vehicle only for children

(ii) Work for a limited range of establishments (‘specified places’), with opportunity for

contact: for example, schools, children’s homes, childcare premises. Not work by

supervised volunteers;

Work under (i) or (ii) is regulated activity only if done **regularly**.

1. **Making it all work**

Policy and procedures to be discussed and approved at a committee meeting. Regular monitoring of the issues should be undertaken by the named person for child protection.