

SAFE FESTIVALS FOR CHILDREN

A photograph showing children participating in a handprint festival. They are sitting around a wooden table with several white trays of paint in various colors (red, yellow, orange, green, purple, black). The children are using their hands to create colorful handprints on white paper. One child is kneeling and dipping their hand into a red paint tray. Another child is sitting on a chair, looking at the camera. The scene is indoors on a carpeted floor.

Ray & Bev Langton
November 2010



Aims of the Session

1. Basic principals
 2. VBS/ISA update
 3. Lost & found children
 4. Scenarios
 5. Feedback
 6. Key points
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Aims

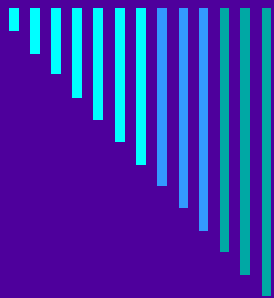
1. There is no 'blue print'
2. There are no easy answers
3. There are many questions
4. Solutions are variable – all festivals are different

Overall aim is to raise awareness and to make you question practice and policy at your festival

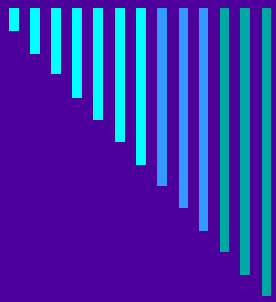


Keeping Children Safe at Your Festival

1. We must all accept, understand the importance of and take all reasonable steps to keep children safe at our festivals
 2. Shortcuts may be easy but: Do they ensure that children are safe? Do they make you as festival organisers vulnerable?
 3. Keeping children safe is not one person's responsibility. The implications need to be known, understood and accepted by everyone in the wider festival production team
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4. Risk assessment is key: Identify potential risks, assess them and take steps to minimise
5. Safety policies are essential: They should be developed jointly, understood by all, be possible to implement and regularly reviewed
6. Sensible safeguarding procedures are not impossible – nor are they a barriers
7. Sometimes however well prepared you are there will issues to deal with. Ensure all incidents are recorded & reflected upon



8. Ensure you do not use bits of paper as 'sticking plasters'
9. Good *practice* is key to keeping children safe
10. Never be complacent - always review, reflect & respond



The Vetting and Barring Scheme

- The Coalition Government has announced its aim to review the criminal records and vetting and barring schemes. The VBS, which was due to start on 26th July 2010, has been halted to allow the government to remodel the scheme to what it calls 'common-sense levels'. However the regulations that were introduced in October 2009 will continue to apply
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Implications for -

1. Festival Organisers:

The scheme affects events for children if the activity is frequent eg. once per month or more, or intensive eg. 3 days or more in a month (regulated activity). If affected you are a regulated activity provider (RAP).

Employers face criminal sanctions for knowingly employing/or using as volunteers barred individuals – employers includes “body corporate, directors or manager(s) directly responsible for hiring the barred individual”

All bodies have a duty to refer to the ISA information about individuals, if they consider them to be a risk to children/vulnerable adults – refer to the ISA website for procedure.

Children are defined as those under 18

2. Stewards:

It is a criminal offence for barred ISA individuals to apply to work with children

For the ISA the term employees refers to both paid and unpaid (volunteer) work/activities

3. Artists:

It is a criminal offence for barred ISA individuals to apply to work with children

For the ISA the term employees refers to both paid and unpaid (volunteer) work/activities



Lost and Found Children

- ❑ A child who has been ‘found’ and is in the care of the festival is safe but may be distressed
 - ❑ A child who can not be located is ‘lost’ and may be in potential danger
 - ❑ A parent/carer who realises they have ‘lost’ their child may be extremely distressed
 - ❑ Festival settings are often relaxed and appear to be very safe
 - ❑ Festivals can be crowded and busy. They can present complex settings in unfamiliar circumstances to all
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SAFE FESTIVALS FOR CHILDREN

A photograph showing children participating in a handprint festival. They are sitting around a wooden table with white paper and paint containers. One child is dipping their hand into a red paint container. The table is covered with white paper featuring colorful handprints in purple, yellow, orange, green, and pink. A wooden spoon is also visible on the table.

Ray & Bev Langton
November 2010



Situation



FESTIVAL SETTING:

Town based, dispersed festival.

TIME

Daytime

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Warm and sunny

AGE OF CHILD

3-4 years old

GENDER OF CHILD

Male

SITUATION

Child found distressed and tearful close to juggling stall set amongst other stalls in a town park. Taken to a steward by member of the public. Child does not appear to speak English.



Situation



FESTIVAL SETTING:

Large greenfield site spread over several adjoining fields

TIME

10.30 pm (well after sunset)

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Cool and windy

AGE OF CHILD

10 years old

GENDER OF CHILD

Boy

SITUATION

The boy reports himself 'lost' to security guards at festival gates. Not very coherent but claims to have been talked to by a man who offered him sweets and asked him to go with him. Child seems unable to specify where this happened, what the man looked like and has no idea where his parents might be.



Situation



FESTIVAL SETTING:

Large greenfield site with several adjoining fields

TIME

Late afternoon

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Very hot and sunny

AGE OF CHILD

3 years old

GENDER OF CHILD

Female

SITUATION

A mother who had been sitting on a blanket with her daughter as part of the audience in a very large, open air concert turned around to find her daughter missing. Distraught mother approaches steward for help.



Situation



FESTIVAL SETTING:

Large Town Hall complex

TIME

Lunch time

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Snowy winter day

AGE OF CHILD

7 years old

GENDER OF CHILD

Male

SITUATION

Parent returns from a 1 hour concert to where child had been left happily playing with other children. No sign of any children or indeed of anyone. Parent goes to Box Office to report child missing.



Situation



FESTIVAL SETTING:

Very large but totally enclosed greenfield festival site

TIME

10.30 pm

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Raining and cold

AGE OF CHILD

10 years old, but big for his age

GENDER OF CHILD

Male

SITUATION

Single parent attending festival alone approaches festival steward concerned that she has not seen her son since 5.00 pm



Situation



FESTIVAL SETTING:

Very large, enclosed greenfield festival site

TIME

Lunchtime

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Cool and windy

AGE OF CHILD

6 years old

GENDER OF CHILD

Female

SITUATION

The girl is discovered wandering around in the bar asking adults “has anyone has seen my daddy”? A member of the public approaches bar staff and expresses concern. Bar staff ascertain that the parent is not in the bar.



Key Points
