

Maldon Carnival Ltd Child Protection Policy

(Including Maldon Carnival Court)

1. Purpose

Maldon Carnival Ltd is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare, and protection of all children and young people who are part of the Maldon Carnival Court. This policy sets out clear guidelines to safeguard them from harm and to promote a safe, respectful, and supportive environment.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All members of the Maldon Carnival Court (including Queen, Princesses, Princes, Attendants, and Pages).
- All volunteers, committee members, chaperones, directors, and associated adults engaged in Maldon Carnival Ltd activities.
- All Carnival-related events, parades, public appearances, fundraising events, and associated travel.

3. Key Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children and young people have the right to protection from abuse, harm, neglect, and exploitation.
- All suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately.
- All adults involved with Maldon Carnival Ltd and the Carnival Court have a duty of care to safeguard children.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Maldon Carnival Ltd Board of Directors:** Holds overall responsibility for safeguarding.
- **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):** Appointed by Maldon Carnival Ltd to oversee child protection matters, report concerns, and liaise with statutory services.
- **Chaperones:** At least two advanced DBS-checked adults must accompany the Court at all events.
- **Parents/Guardians:** Maintain primary responsibility for their children's welfare outside official Maldon Carnival Ltd activities.
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5. Code of Conduct for Adults

- Always treat children with respect and dignity.
- Never be alone with a child (ensure two-adult rule).
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact.
- Do not use inappropriate, offensive, or discriminatory language.
- Ensure costumes, travel, and accommodation (if applicable) are safe and appropriate.
- Report any safeguarding concern immediately to the DSO.

6. Court Member Expectations

- Be polite, respectful, and supportive of each other.
- Follow the guidance of the chaperones and committee members.
- Report any concerns, worries, or incidents to a trusted adult or the DSO.

7. Safeguarding Procedures

- All adult volunteers and directors working directly with the Court must undergo an **Enhanced DBS Check**.
- The DSO will maintain a **confidential log** of safeguarding concerns.
- Any allegations against adults will be reported immediately to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- In the event of suspected child abuse, concerns will be referred to **Essex Children's Social Care** or the police.

8. Photography and Social Media

- Parental consent must be obtained before using photographs or videos of Court members.
- Full names of children will not be used alongside photographs on social media or publicity without explicit consent.
- Court members will be supervised during public interactions, particularly online promotions.

9. Transport and Events

- Transport arrangements for Court members must be agreed upon with parents/guardians in advance.
- At least two DBS-checked adults must supervise group travel.
- Events must be risk assessed to ensure safe participation.

10. Training and Awareness

- All directors, committee members, and chaperones will receive basic safeguarding training.
- The DSO will undertake advanced safeguarding training as required.

- This policy will be reviewed annually by Maldon Carnival Ltd and updated in line with best practice and legislation.

11. Contacts

- **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):** Laura Hockton
l.hockton@maldoncarnival.co.uk
- **Deputy Safeguarding Officer:** Carole Hogger
carole.hogger@hotmail.com
- **Essex Children's Social Care:** 0345 603 7627
- **Essex Police (non-emergency):** 101 / **Emergency:** 999

12. Policy Approval and Sign-Off

This Child Protection Policy has been approved and adopted by **Maldon Carnival Ltd** on the date below. It will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or guidance changes.

Signed on behalf of Maldon Carnival Ltd:

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| • Chairperson: <u>K. Howes</u> | Date: <u>18/08/2025</u> |
| • Designated Safeguarding Officer: <u>L.Hockton</u> | Date: <u>18/08/2025</u> |
| • Deputy Safeguarding Officer: <u>C.Hogger</u> | Date: <u>18/08/2025</u> |