

Oxen Park Cinema Club

Safeguarding Statement

Oxen Park Cinema Club (OPCC) is a charity based film club which is managed by a team of volunteers. Membership is open to anyone 18 or over and is paid by annual subscription.

OPCC is committed to creating a space where all members of the community can meet in a secure environment and our safeguarding statement reflects our respect for everyone using our facilities be they members, volunteers or paid employees.

OPCC recognises the following as its legal framework:

- The Care Act 2014 (Chapter 14 concerns safeguarding),
- The Children's Act 1989,
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2018)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- The Equality Act 2010
- Disability Discrimination Act 2005
- Procedures set out by the local Safeguarding Adults Board

We recognise that some of our members or volunteers may be identified as "adults at risk". The 1997 Consultation "Who Cares" defines this group as someone "who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and is or may be unable to take care, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation". This definition of an adult covers all people over 18 years of age.

OPCC will not tolerate any form of abuse wherever it occurs, or whoever is responsible. We are committed to promoting an atmosphere of inclusion, transparency and openness and are open to feedback from the people who use our facilities with a view to continuous improvement. At each film showing, members are reminded that we have an anonymous comments box where anyone can report concerns to our designated safeguarding officers. On collection, they will forward this information to the Westmorland & Furness Safeguarding Hub :

Tel : 0300 373 2724

Email : safeguardinghub@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Please password protect any emails and send your password in a further email.

Out of Hours Duty Team Tel – 0300 373 2724

If you need advice before making a report you can contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on 0300 303 3892 or email lado@cumbria.gov.uk

Our facilities

OPCC has made reasonable adjustments to our premises offering a disabled lavatory, hearing loop, ramp and appropriately wide doors for wheelchair access. We also ensure that wheelchair users and members with a visual impairment have a dedicated seating space and provision is made for carers accompanying them. We endeavour to ensure that any person with a disability using our facilities will be treated with dignity and we will promote their independence.

Safe use of equipment, fire risk assessment and health and safety

Our electrical equipment has annual Portable Appliance Testing. Our volunteers will not be asked to perform a task which places them in danger or is beyond their skill set or remit.

Committee members are invited to take training in fire, risk assessments and first aid. All policies and risk assessments are updated annually.

Members, visitors and volunteers take part in an annual fire evacuation procedure and members with disabilities are invited to complete a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP).

Adults at risk

Adults are at risk if they have issues relating to health, disabilities (including learning) or age. OPCC does not restrict access to films but works to create a safe environment so that adults at risk - be they members, visitors or volunteers – have a good cinema experience.

Examples of good practice include

- space for carers
- opportunity for adults at risk to arrive early and settle into the cinema

Contact with young people

There are occasions when young people use the cinema or attend OPCC screenings in schools or halls.

When an organisation books the cinema, the committee makes it clear that the parents and carers present are responsible for the welfare of the young people.

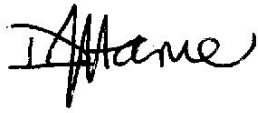
If a film is shown in a school or college then the OPCC volunteers will request a copy of that organisation's Safeguarding Policy and will abide by its contents.

Disclosure

OPCC fosters a culture of openness and dialogue where members are happy to disclose their needs and ask for support e.g. help with access.

It will not tolerate derogatory, racist or sexist language and members and volunteers are encouraged to disclose anything heard via a comments box where anonymous concerns can be left for the committee safeguarding officer's attention.

Signature of Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hame', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 12th July 2025