

**16 October 2018**

## **Chetham's School of Music and the Independent Inquiry Into Child Sexual Abuse**

Chetham's School of Music will be applying for Core Participant Status in the upcoming Residential Schools Investigation, part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). As a Core Participant, Chetham's will be recognised as having a significant interest in the matters to be investigated.

As part of Phase One of the Residential Schools Investigation, the Inquiry Chair and Panel wish to find out if there are any factors which are peculiar to residential music schools which give rise to opportunities for abuse of children. Chetham's will be one of six residential music schools providing evidence to the Inquiry.

Alun Jones, Principal since 2016, says: "We have applied for Core Participant Status as we believe it is the right thing to do given the events which have taken place at our School in the past. Since the initial Police investigations into those events, and since the establishment of IICSA, we have actively worked with those authorities to share all documentation and records relevant to that period of the time. Our ongoing aim is to be as open, honest and transparent as possible about what has happened at our School in the past, and about the safeguarding measures we now have in place. By engaging fully with the Inquiry we will help ensure the panel gets the information it needs to advise on best practice in safeguarding all children from future abuse."

Chetham's has its own Independent Safeguarding Commission, established in 2014, which was set up partly in response to past events.

Chetham's Independent Safeguarding Commission helps ensure the School maintains the highest standards of safeguarding for its students, not least given that many of the students are boarders and/or receive individual tuition. It makes sure the School has in place and properly implements appropriate and effective policies for the care of its students and is completely independent of the School's Governing Body.

## **Editor's notes**

Chetham's School of Music is the largest specialist music school in the UK, and the only one in the north of England. Originally established as a charity school in 1653, it became a co-educational, specialist music school in 1969 and, over the last 50 years, has established itself as a central part of music education in the UK.

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