

Kempsford Village Hall Safeguarding Policy

1.0 Introduction and Purpose

1.1 The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount. All organisations including charities must comply with the law regarding the protection and safeguarding of children and adults at risk.

1.2 The purpose of this document is to define the policy and procedures that apply to use of our Village Hall.

2.0 Definition of Terms Used

2.1 CHILD - A child is anyone under the age of 18.

2.2 ADULT AT RISK - The Law Commission Report into Adult Social Care (2011) defined an Adult at Risk as a person who:

- must appear to have health or social care needs, including carers (irrespective of whether or not those needs are being met by services)
- must appear to be at risk of harm
- must appear to be unable to safeguard themselves from harm as a direct result of their health or social care needs.

2.3 SAFEGUARDING - Safeguarding is defined in "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2013 as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

2.4 ABUSE OF A CHILD - The NSPCC have identified specific forms of abuse which may be perpetrated against a child. These are defined as:

- Bullying
- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Child trafficking
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse

2.5 ABUSE OF AN ADULT - The Law Commission's Report into Adult Social Care defines harm as including but not limited to:

- ill treatment (including sexual abuse, exploitation and forms of ill treatment which are not physical)
- the impairment of health (physical or mental) or development (physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural)
- self-harm and neglect
- unlawful conduct which adversely affects property, rights or interests (for example, financial abuse).

3.0 Principles of our Policy

3.1 Children and vulnerable adults (adults at risk) have a right to use the Village Hall protected and free from abuse of any kind regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.

3.2 The Trustees of Kempsford Village Hall have a duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults who use their facilities.

3.3 This policy applies to all Trustees and all users of the Village Hall.

3.4 The policy will be reviewed and approved annually at the AGM and whenever there is a change in the laws or published guidelines.

3.5 The policy will be available for anyone to inspect on the Village Hall web site or by request from the Secretary.

3.6 Anyone with a conviction for a sexual offence against a child or vulnerable adult, whenever it was committed, is not considered suitable as a Trustee.

3.7 All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by Trustees and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to social services and in emergencies, the police.

4.0 Responsibilities

4.1 The Trustee with specific responsibility for safeguarding (Delegated Lead) is Kate Collins. The Deputy is Caroline Jacobs.

4.2 All users of the village hall are responsible for reporting suspicions of abuse using the contact details below.

4.3 The Delegated Lead should be advised of any safeguarding incidents on the village hall site so that the appropriate preventive action can be taken if necessary. Confidentiality will be observed but information sharing will be necessary if a child or adult is deemed to be at risk of harm.

5.0 Reporting Suspicions of Abuse

For concerns regarding children contact:

- Gloucestershire Children's Social Care: 01452 426565 (9am to 5pm)
- Or email childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk
- Out of office hours 01452 61 4194
- For immediate safety concerns contact the police 101
- NSPCC Child Protection 0808 800 5000 or text phone: 0800 056 0566 or email help@nspcc.org.uk
- Child Exploitation and Online <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>
- Childline childline.org.uk / 0800 1111

For concerns regarding adults, contact the Adult Help Desk:

- Telephone 01425 426868 Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm
- Or when out of hours call the Emergency Duty Team on 01452 614194
- Or email socialservicesenq@gloucestershire.gov.uk

6.0 DBS Checks

6.1 Anyone who involved in regulated activity (as defined by law) with children or vulnerable adults requires a DBS check.

6.2 Trustees are not in regulated activity as part of their responsibilities and do not require checks.

6.3 Certain hirers will be included in the definition of regulated activity. They will be required to provide a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and proof of DBS clearance.

7.0 Lettings

7.1 Hirers will be made aware that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film on show.

7.2 No entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is permitted on the premises.

7.3 Organisations hiring the hall for activities for children/vulnerable adults will be asked to show their Safeguarding policy before the first booking commences. Individuals hiring the hall for activities for children/vulnerable adults will be made aware of the Village Hall's policy.

7.4 In addition any User hiring the hall to provide a facility for Children (playgroups, football training, and youth clubs for example) will be required to show their DBS clearance to the Bookings Secretary and the disclosure number will be recorded. Any delegation of that hirer to other people to supervise the children is the responsibility of the hirer and the Bookings Secretary will not vet these delegates for DBS clearance.

7.5 The only exception to the above is when the hall is hired out for private parties.

Approval

This policy has been adopted and approved by the Annual General Meeting held on *9th May 2018*

Date for next review: May 2020