



Biddestone Village Hall & Recreation Trust Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Actions Log			
Action	Date	Responsible person	Next Review
Review	February 2026	Chairperson	
Approved	February 2026	Committee	February 2027

Context:

Biddestone Village Hall and Recreation Trust (BVHRT) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. The trust is managed by the trustees and representatives of local recreation/sport clubs, the Women's Institute and Parish Council. The purpose of BVHRT is to provide leisure and recreational facilities for the village and surrounding area. BVHRT has a duty of care and is committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises including children, young people and vulnerable adults. Whether this is as visitors and/or as participants in activities and events, trustees, volunteers, and staff.

This policy defines how Biddestone Village Hall & Recreational Trust operates to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

1. Legal Basis:

1.1. Section 11 of the 2004 Children Act places duties of care on charity based organisations and sports organisations and clubs to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are fulfilled acknowledging the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

1.2. Relevant legislation includes

1.2.1. Children Act 1989.

1.2.2. [Female Genital Mutilation](#) Act 2003.

1.2.3. Children Act 2004.

1.2.4. Children and Young Persons Act 2008.



- 1.2.5. [Children and Families Act](#) 2014.
- 1.2.6. Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 1.2.7. Working Together to Safeguard Children.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **Children and young people** are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old, and includes an unborn child
- 2.2. **Adult at risk of abuse or neglect** are defined as someone over 18 years old who, according to Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:
 - 2.2.1. has care and support needs
 - 2.2.2. is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
 - 2.2.3. as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it
 - 2.2.4. If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service, they may still be an adult at risk
- 2.3. **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** is defined as:
 - 2.3.1. protecting children from maltreatment
 - 2.3.2. preventing impairment of children's health and development
 - 2.3.3. ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
 - 2.3.4. taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
- 2.4. **Abuse** is defined as any treatment which may harm physically or mentally another person. It includes but, is not limited to
 - 2.4.1. Physical abuse
 - 2.4.2. Neglect
 - 2.4.3. Emotional abuse
 - 2.4.4. Sexual abuse
 - 2.4.5. Controlling behaviour
 - 2.4.6. Bullying including cyber bullying
 - 2.4.7. Peer-on-peer abuse
 - 2.4.8. Grooming
 - 2.4.9. Domestic abuse or witnessing domestic abuse
 - 2.4.10. Financial abuse
 - 2.4.11. Forced marriage
 - 2.4.12. FGM
- 2.5. **'at risk'** means that actual abuse or neglect does not need to occur, rather that early interventions to protect a child at risk should be considered to prevent actual harm, abuse and neglect.



3. Persons affected

- 3.1.** All trustees, volunteers, and staff
- 3.2.** All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property
- 3.3.** All visitors and contractors

4. Policy principles

- 4.1.** There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness
- 4.2.** BVHRT has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse
- 4.3.** BVHRT recognises that under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004
- 4.4.** BVHRT is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised
- 4.5.** BVHRT is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.
- 4.6.** The BVHRT Committee is committed to the following principles
 - 4.6.1.** The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount.
 - 4.6.2.** All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse
 - 4.6.3.** Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
 - 4.6.4.** All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately

5. Procedures

- 5.1.** All members of the committee will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for trustees which include a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.



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- 5.2.** All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, including whistleblowing.
- 5.3.** All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- 5.4.** A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency
 - 5.4.1.** The named person: **Jackie Needham**
until: **February 2027**
 - 5.4.2.** All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:
 - 5.4.2.1.** Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
 - 5.4.2.2.** Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or
 - 5.4.2.3.** Behaved towards a child (or children) or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.
 - 5.4.3.** The hall committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring agreement. This will confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.
 - 5.4.4.** The village hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

6. This Safeguarding Policy, and Procedures detailed above were agreed and minuted at a meeting of the committee on:

Approved by BVHTR Committee on:

Signed on behalf of the committee:

David Daniel Chairman