

Billingborough Village Hall Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction Billingborough Village Hall is committed to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all individuals, including children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This safeguarding policy outlines our commitment to promoting welfare, preventing harm, and responding appropriately to safeguarding concerns.

2. Scope This policy applies to all users of the village hall, including committee members, staff, volunteers, hirers, and visitors. It covers activities and events held within the hall and extends to any online interactions related to the village hall's website and social media.

3. Key Principles

- The welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- All individuals, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation, have the right to protection from harm.
- We take all safeguarding concerns seriously and act upon them promptly and appropriately.
- The hall operates in compliance with relevant UK safeguarding legislation, including the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004, the Care Act 2014, and the Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance.

4. Responsibilities

- The Village Hall Committee has overall responsibility for safeguarding and ensuring policies and procedures are in place.
- A designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is appointed to oversee safeguarding matters and act as the point of contact for concerns.
- Hirers of the hall must ensure they have their own safeguarding policies in place when working with children or vulnerable adults.

5. Code of Conduct

- All individuals using the hall should treat others with respect and dignity.
- Physical, emotional, or verbal abuse, bullying, discrimination, or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Any concerns about safeguarding issues should be reported to the Safeguarding Lead immediately.

6. Reporting Concerns

- Any individual with concerns about a child or vulnerable adult's safety should report them to the Safeguarding Lead.
- If a child or adult is in immediate danger, the emergency services should be contacted by dialling 999.
- Concerns can also be reported to local safeguarding authorities:
 - Lincolnshire County Council Safeguarding Children's Board: 01522 782111
 - Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board: 01522 782155
 - NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

7. Safer Recruitment and DBS Checks

- Volunteers and staff working directly with children or vulnerable adults may be required to undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- References and appropriate checks will be undertaken for individuals in positions of trust.

8. Use of Images and Online Safety

- No photographs or videos of children or vulnerable adults should be taken or shared without explicit consent from a parent or guardian.
- Online communications, including on the website and social media, should be respectful, professional, and in line with safeguarding principles.

9. Review and Monitoring

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Village Hall Committee to ensure it remains up to date with legal requirements and best practices.
- Any changes will be communicated to hall users and stakeholders.

10. Contact Information For any safeguarding concerns or queries, please contact the designated Safeguarding Lead, Karyn Wilkins on 07802 584947

This policy reflects our commitment to safeguarding and creating a safe and inclusive environment for all who use Billingborough Village Hall.

Billingborough Parish Hall

Charity number: 509262

