Bishop Middleham Village Hall

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This Policy defines how Bishop Middleham Village Hall ('the Village Hall') operates to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This Policy will apply to all staff, contractors and volunteers and will be used to support their work.
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is defined 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.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect, for the purposes of this Policy refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to the Care Act 2014:

- Has care and support needs.
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- As a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself/herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Persons affected:

- All Trustees, volunteers, and staff.
- All those attending any activity or services that is being delivered from the Hall premises.
- All visitors and contractors.

Philosophy and Principles

There can be no excuse 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.

Bishop Middleham Village Hall has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Bishop Middleham Village Hall 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 under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

Bishop Middleham Village Hall is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

Bishop Middleham Village Hall is aware of the work of Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership and Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk. This Policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

Bishop Middleham Village Hall is committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount.
- All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to p protection from abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. For services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their part.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly a and appropriately.

Dated – 11th September 2026
To be reviewed annually