

Hoo Village Hall – Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Hoo 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 participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support out trustees, volunteers and staff.

2. 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 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 purpose of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to paragraph 14.2 of the Care Act 2015:-

- 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 or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

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.

3. Persons Affected:

- All trustee representatives, volunteers and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property.
- All visitors and contractors.

4. Policy Principles:

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation and mistreatment. 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.

Hoo Village Hall has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Hoo Village Hall recognises that under the Care Act 2014 it has a responsibility for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

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

Hoo Village Hall is aware of the work of their local safeguarding boards/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of adults vulnerable from abuse. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

Hoo Village Hall is committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child, your person or adult at risk is paramount.
- All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
- 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:

- All trustee representatives, volunteers and staff will have signed a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
- All trustee representatives, volunteers and staff will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training if required including whistleblowing where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding board/partnership or other local support organisation and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy.
- All trustee representatives, volunteers and staff will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- All trustee representatives, volunteers and staff will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- Hoo and Chattenden Parish Council will follow safe recruitment practices.
- The Hall Manager will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. They will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.
- All suspicions or allegation of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The Hall manager will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation of 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:-

- I. Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk
 - II. Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or adult at risk; or
 - III. Behaved towards a child or children or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm.
- Hoo Village Hall will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hire agreement. This will require all hirers who wish to use the hall for activities which include children and adults at risk, other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family, to produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and confirmation that they have carried out the relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
 - Hoo Village Hall will carry out an annual review of this policy.