

Safeguarding Policy

1 Purpose

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

This policy defines how Sinderby 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, whether as visitors or participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees and volunteers.

2 Definitions

Children and young people are defined as people aged under 18. This policy applies to all staff, contractors, and volunteers and is intended 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

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect – For the purposes of this policy, an adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to Section 42 of 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, they are unable to protect themselves against 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.

Persons affected

- All trustees, volunteers, and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service delivered from the village hall charity property.
- All visitors and contractors.

3 Policy Principles

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 further vulnerable to violations of these rights due to disability, impairment, age, or illness.

Sinderby Village Hall charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Sinderby Village Hall charity 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.

Sinderby Village Hall charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, preventing harm, and responding effectively when concerns are raised.

Sinderby Village Hall charity is aware of the work of its local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations in developing and implementing procedures to protect 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.

Sinderby Village Hall Committee 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 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.

4 Procedures

All committee members will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for trustees, which includes a declaration that they have no convictions for abuse.

All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training, where appropriate, on safeguarding issues, 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 at 3 above.

All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.

All committee members, helpers, and other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless they are appropriately vetted.

The hall committee will follow safe recruitment practices.

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.

The named person is **Suzanne Chittock** until November 2026.

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 regarding 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:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or
- 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.

The hall committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring 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 either produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when requested to do so or, confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.

The Village Hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy. Next review date:

November 2026