

Safeguarding Policy for Staunton on Wye Village Hall – agreed 21 June 2021

Why have a policy?

Children, young people and adults at risk have a right to be safe in public places and safely cared for. Parents, carers and members of the public need to have confidence that organisations such as the Village Hall provide a safe environment and is able to react appropriately to any allegations of abuse or poor care. This applies to events/activities run by the Village Hall Committee and to how we require other organisations who use the hall for their events/activities to meet their safeguarding responsibilities. Charities have a special duty regarding safeguarding the beneficiaries of their work.

Who is involved?

Everyone shares responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk, irrespective of individual roles. The Village Hall designates a trustee and a committee member to take responsibility for safeguarding issues. Their role is to support anyone who has concerns whether a hall user or hirer, another hall committee member or a local resident. This is important since, especially in a small community, it can be hard to raise questions about safeguarding.

What does 'safeguarding mean?

The welfare of the child is paramount and all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. Children's safeguarding legislation and government guidance says that safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Working together to safeguard children, A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (March 2015)

Adults safeguarding legislation and government guidance says that safeguarding means:

- Stop abuse and neglect wherever possible;
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs;
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they live and
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned.

Care Act 2014

What will it mean for the hall?

The safeguarding policy will be approved and endorsed by the Hall Management Committee and Trustees. It will apply to everyone who carries out voluntary or paid work on behalf of the Hall.

All concerns, risks and any allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees and committee members, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to Herefordshire's Children's or Adults Services and in emergencies, to the Police. We will have a trustee and committee member designated to respond to any concerns or allegations in the first instance. Anyone using the hall may contact them in this regard, whether about people using the hall or about hall staff/volunteers.

We reserve the right to ask for evidence of DBS vetting of people running activities in the hall involving children, young people or vulnerable adults. We will ask people hiring the hall to ensure they have safeguarding procedures in place, including controlling access to the hall, use of toilets and taking of photographs.

We will review the policy at least annually. This also links to our health and safety procedures.

Resources to help us implement the policy include

- Safeguarding children and young people from Sexual Exploitation
 - <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/4cjN/localised-content-child-sexual-exploitation-risk-assessment/?b=Herefordshire> and select Herefordshire from the drop down menu
- Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults public information: [For public - Herefordshire Safeguarding \(herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk\)](http://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk)
- West Midlands Safeguarding Adults Hub : [WM Adult Docs \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](http://www.wmadultdocs.co.uk)
- Working Together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 2015 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf
- What to do if you are worried that a child is being abused (DFE 2015)
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2>

Safeguarding action plan

- 1 We will inform children, young people, parents and carers of the policy and procedures as appropriate through notices in the hall.
- 2 We will display relevant advice and helpline numbers at the hall to help anyone feeling unsafe or who has concerns.
- 3 We will include in our hirer's contract and information the requirement they have safeguarding procedures in place.
- 4 We will publicise names and contact details for those responsible for our safeguarding work so that anyone using the hall or with concerns about safeguarding at the hall can easily contact them. They will ensure that in case of concerns about risks advice is sought and/or concerns reported to Social Services or the police.
- 5 We will review the policy and how it is working at least annually.