

Fovant 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 Fovant 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 or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our 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 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.

Be aware that abuse and neglect of children could be physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, domestic, sexual exploitation, bullying and cyberbullying and online abuse

Adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

For the purposes 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 him 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.

Be aware that abuse and neglect of adults could be physical, sexual, psychological, financial or material, neglect, discriminatory, domestic and organisational.

3. Persons affected

- All trustees, volunteers and staff
- All these attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property
- All visitors and contractors

4. Policy principals

There can be no excuse for not taking 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.

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

Fovant 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 responsibility for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

Fovant Village Hall charity is committed to promoting wellbeing and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

Fovant Village Hall charity is aware of the work of their local Safeguarding Board 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.

Fovant 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
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Procedures

a.

All members of the committee will have signed the Trustee Statement of Eligibility form for trustees which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.

- b.** All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at 3 above.
- c.** All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- d.** All members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted
- e.** The hall committee will follow safe recruitment practices.
- f.** A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for safeguarding matters. The named person is **Celia Haselgrove** until she relinquishes the position of chairperson.
- g.** All suspicions of abuse will be dealt with speedily and appropriately.

Wiltshire Safeguarding Contacts

Safeguarding Children:

If you think a child or young person is at risk of significant harm, or is injured, contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Integrated Front Door (IFD) on 0300 4560108, 8.45am-5pm, Monday-Thursday and 8.45am-4pm Friday; Out of Hours 0300 456 0100.

For less urgent enquiries, email mash@wiltshire.gov.uk

Safeguarding Adults:

If you think a vulnerable adult is at risk of significant harm, or is injured, contact the Wiltshire Adult Social Care Advice and Contact Team on 0300 4560111, 8.30am-5.20pm, Monday-Thursday and 8.30am-4.20pm Friday; Out of Hours 0300 456 0100.

<https://adults.wiltshire.gov.uk/Services/9/Wiltshire-Adult-Soci>

For less urgent enquiries, you can report a safeguarding concern on the Wiltshire Council website

If you think a child or an adult is in immediate danger, phone the police or emergency services on 999.

- h.** The hall committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring agreement, and any hirer planning activities including children or adults at risk other than private parties will be asked to produce a copy of their Safeguarding policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the DBS.

i. The hall committee management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

Adopted September 2021

Reviewed May 17th 2022

Reviewed May 2023

Reviewed 17 July 2024

Last reviewed & revised 21 May 2025

This policy is based on that created by Community Action Suffolk