

ELLERTON AND AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

Safeguarding and Public Protection Policy – Children and Young People (CYP)

Take Home message:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- Mandi Underwood has been nominated as the Safeguarding Representative for CYP for Ellerton and Aughton Village Hall
- This policy is for the Village Hall
- Clubs must follow this policy but may also require their own policy and their own safeguarding representative – depending on the nature of the club's activities
- Policy to be reviewed annually unless legislative change
- Next review due September 2024

1. General statement of intent

1.1 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

1.2 This policy is a statement of Ellerton and Aughton's Village Hall Management Committees' (VHMC) commitment to safeguarding Children and Young People (CYP) we may come into contact with either directly or indirectly through the hall.

1.3 The policy is to be operated by all members of the VHMC and representative clubs leads to safeguard hall users.

1.4 Club leads should cascade this policy to their volunteers and/or paid staff and are also responsible for ensuring their volunteers and/or paid staff have appropriate DBS clearance and have attended appropriate safeguarding training commensurate to their role/s.

1.5 It may be necessary for individual clubs to generate their own additional policy and procedures and to have their own named Safeguarding Representative – depending on the nature of the club's activities.

1.6 It provides guidance on our individual and collective responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding CYP. Safeguarding responsibilities in relation to adults at risk is dealt with in our Safeguarding and Public Protection Policy – Adults at Risk.

1.7 The VHMC's Data Protection policy details how and when the VHMC will break confidentiality and raise a safeguarding concern to third parties.

1.8 An implementation checklist for the VHMC and club leads is found at Appendix 1.

2. Legislation and context

2.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) provides a framework for agencies to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children up to the age of 18 years, whether living with their families, in state care or independently.

2.2 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- a. protecting children from maltreatment
- b. preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- c. ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- d. taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

2.3 Local authorities and social workers have specific roles and responsibilities to lead the statutory assessment of children in need (section 17, Children Act 1989) and to lead child protection enquiries (section 47, Children Act 1989).

2.4 Children have said that they need:

Vigilance	to have adults notice when things are troubling them
Understanding and action	to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon
Stability	to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them
Respect	to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not
Information and engagement	to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans
Explanation	to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response
Support	to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family
Advocacy	to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views
Protection	to be protected against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee

2.5 The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

2.6 The VHMC has designated Mandi Underwood as its Safeguarding Representative for CYP. All committee members have been made aware of this and provided with their contact details.

2.7 The VHMC recognise that it is the responsibility of each committee member and representative club lead to prevent neglect, physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse of vulnerable adults and to report any abuse disclosed or suspected.

2.8 Representative club leads should be aware that the Protection of Children Act (1999) requires employers to carry out Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks before employees and volunteers are allowed to come into unsupervised contact with CYP.

3. Recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse

3.1 When a CYP is experiencing abuse, they may display particular signs and symptoms that act as indicators that this might be happening. Some of these signs and symptoms include:

Becoming withdrawn Withdrawing from friends and family	Unusual or erratic behaviour Running away from home
---	--

Losing interest in hobbies, job etc. Low self-esteem/confidence Depression Anxiety Self-harm Suicidal thoughts Suicide attempts Other mental health issues Slower than normal development	Rapid weight loss or gain Repeated illnesses Alcohol misuse Drug misuse Sudden changes in behaviour – becoming too withdrawn or erratic Evident bruising, scratches, cuts or other marks and injuries
---	--

3.2 It is important to remember that this list is not exhaustive but is used to provide indicators to some of the signs that an individual may be experiencing abuse. It is also important to remember that individually these signs may not present a concern but persistence and a combination of a number of the above can offer further indication that abuse may be taking place.

3.3. VHMC members and representatives club leads should explain the actions they will take if they think an a CYP is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. This includes a duty to inform their parent/care (if details are known) unless the disclosure is about their parent/carer.

3.4 The categories and descriptions below are intended to help volunteers be alert to and identify signs of abuse whenever possible. Abuse can take many forms.

Abuse	A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others (e.g. witnessing domestic abuse). Children may be abused in a family, in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children
Physical Abuse	This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise, causing physical harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
Sexual Abuse	Involves forcing or enticing a young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the young person is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.
Child sexual exploitation	Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

	The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
Neglect or act of omission	<p>The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment) b. protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger c. ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers) d. ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment <p>It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.</p>
Emotional or Psychological Abuse	This is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a CYP such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the CYPs emotional development. It may involve conveying to CYP that they are worthless and unloved, inadequate, or valued only so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a CYP, though it may occur alone.
Significant Harm	Some CYP may be in need because they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. The Children Act V section 47 (1) introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interest of the CYP.
Financial or material abuse	This is when a person is prevented from accessing their own money, benefits or assets or is subject to undue pressure, duress, threat or undue influence in connection with loans, wills, property inheritance or financial transactions. It may involve exploitation of a CYPs money or assets or missing personal possessions, an unexplained lack of money or inability to maintain a lifestyle, unexplained withdrawals of money from accounts or involve the person allocated to manage financial affairs being evasive or uncooperative.
Modern slavery	This includes human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, such as escort work, prostitution and pornography as well as debt bondage (being forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they will never be able to clear). The CYP may appear malnourished, unkempt or withdrawn. They may be isolated from the community or present as being under the control of others. There may be an avoidance of eye contact and the CYP may appear frightened or hesitant to talk to other people.
Self-neglect	This is characterised by poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance, lack of essential food clothing or shelter, malnutrition, hoarding, non-compliance with health or care services, an inability or unwillingness to take medication or treat illness or injury.
Discriminatory abuse	This may manifest itself as any of the other categories of abuse previously stated. What is distinctive, however, is that discriminatory abuse is motivated by oppressive and discriminatory attitudes towards a person's disability, physical or learning disability, mental ill-health or sensory

	impairment, race, gender, age, religion, cultural background, sexual orientation, political convictions, appearance or other aspects.
Grooming	Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them. CYP who are groomed can be sexually abuse, exploited or trafficked. Anybody can be a groomer, no matter their age, gender or race. Grooming can take place over a short or long period of time – from weeks to years. Groomers may also build a relationship with the CYPs family or friends to make them seem trustworthy or authoritative.
County Lines	A term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.
Child criminal exploitation	Where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology

4. Protocol for raising concerns about CYP

4.1 In the first instance, committee members should raise any safeguarding concerns with the designated Safeguarding Representative. The absence of the Safeguarding Representative does not prevent individuals contacting external agencies direct to discuss or raise their concerns.

4.2 The designated Safeguarding Representative discuss your concerns with you and decide whether:

- the concerns need to be escalated
- the concerns will be raised with the parent/carer
- the concerns will be raised externally with or without the consent of the individual
- the concerns will be raised externally with or without the knowledge or consent of the individual's parent/carer (where details are known) unless the disclosure is about their parent/carer

4.3 The designated Safeguarding Representative will consider whether:

- the action being taken is proportionate to the risk
- raising the concern is in the public interest (e.g. is there a risk to others)
- raising the concern is in the CYP's best interests (i.e. it will prevent significant harm)

4.4 The contact details for raising safeguarding concerns externally with other agencies are found at Appendix 2.

5. Position of Trust

5.1 'Position of trust' is a legal term that refers to certain roles and settings where an adult has regular and direct contact with children. Examples of positions of trust include: teachers, care workers, youth justice workers, social workers, doctors.

5.2 In England, Wales and Northern Ireland changes to the law made in 2022 extend the definition to include faith group leaders and sports coaches.

5.3 It is against the law for someone in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with a child in their care, even if that child is over the age of consent (16 or over).

5.4 VHMC members and representative club leads should consider what actions they need to take to keep other CYP safe should they receive intelligence that a CYP has been sexually abused by a person in a position of trust who may still have access to and pose a risk to CYP.

6. Allegations against committee members or clubs leads

6.1 Any allegations made against a member of the committee or representative club leads will be dealt with as a serious matter, following the VHMC's disciplinary policy and procedure.

7. Public protection from terrorism

7.1 Prevent is part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This is a measure that aims to reduce the threat of terrorism in the UK. Prevent is everybody's business.

7.2. The overall aim of Prevent is to safeguard children, young people and adults from the threat faced by those who pose extremist or radicalised views. The Prevent programme is about protecting vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists. It places a duty on public sector organisations to prevent people from being drawn towards such views and ensures that support is in place for those who are vulnerable.

7.3 Definitions

- **Terrorism** - *'the use or threat of action where the use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public and the use or threat is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideology cause'* (Terrorism Act, 2000). Actions can include serious violence against a person, serious damage to property or serious disruption to an electronic system.
- **Extremism** - *'vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs'* (Home Office, Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, Updated 1 April 2021).
- **Radicalisation** – *'someone is being encouraged to develop extreme views or beliefs in support of terrorist groups and activities'* (Home Office, Get help for radicalisation concerns, 8 June 2022)
- **Radicaliser** - *'an individual who encourages others to develop or adopt beliefs and views supportive of terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism'* (North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, Prevent: Extremism and Radicalisation).

7.4 The most common types of terrorism in the UK are extreme right-wing terrorism and Islamist terrorism (www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-if-youre-worried-about-someone-being-radicalised).

- Extreme right-wing terrorism may be inspired by groups such as National Action and Atomwaffen Division.
- Islamist terrorism may be inspired by groups such as Daesh or Al Qa'ida.

7.5 If someone is expressing extreme views of hatred which could lead to them harming themselves or others, you can raise your concerns in confidence with the Action Counter Terrorism Early Support Line on 0800 011 3764.

8. De-briefing

8.1 VHMC members and club leads will be given opportunities for wider discussions on any safeguarding concerns with the Safeguarding Representative.

9. Training

9.1 CPD certified safeguarding training and online Designated Safeguarding Lead training will be funded by the VHMC for the designated Safeguarding Representative (if they have not already attended this training in another capacity).

10. Access and review

10.1 The VMHC will review this policy every 12 months unless there is any legislative change which requires action in between.

Other linked policies:

Disciplinary policy

Data protection policy

Safeguarding and Public Protection Policy – Adults at Risk

APPENDIX 1

Implementation checklist for VHMC and club representatives

- Identify two Safeguarding Representatives for your club
- Safeguarding Representative for VHMC for Adults at Risk identified as Mags Godderidge
- Safeguarding Representative for VHMC for CYP identified as Mandi Underwood
- Ensure Safeguarding Representatives attend relevant safeguarding training and update that training regularly
- Ensure Safeguarding Representatives names and contact details are posted where they can be seen by children, young people, their parents or carers or adults at risk
- Ensure all volunteers have a copy of the procedure for raising concerns
- Ensure all know what to do if they have concerns about a child or young person or adult at risk
- Ensure all existing volunteers who have regular contact with children or young people or adults at risk have an up to date DBS check
- Ensure that all new volunteers who have regular contact with children or young people or adults at risk have an up to date DBS check before they start volunteering
- Ensure that the premises used for your organisation/activity conform to health and safety guidelines
- Ensure that any letting arrangements are bound by contracts that include an agreement to adhere to the host organisation's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
- Have an accident/incident reporting procedure
- Have an accident/incident reporting book
- Have volunteers trained in First Aid
- Have a current First Aid kit which is reviewed and replenished regularly.

APPENDIX 2

Key contact numbers for escalating safeguarding concerns to VHMC

Safeguarding Officer – Adults at Risk	Mags Godderidge magsgodderidge@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01757 288 962 Tel: 07972 108 176
Safeguarding Officer – CYP	Mandi Underwood Mandicrisp14@btinternet.com Tel: 07714 766053

Key contact numbers for escalating safeguarding concerns regarding CYP to external agencies

Police URGENT (immediate risk to life)	Tel: 999
Police NON-URGENT	Tel: 101
YORK referrals:	Tel 01904 551900 (Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm) Tel 0300 131 2131 (out of hours) York.gov.uk/safeguarding-children Advice line: Tel 01904 551900
NORTH YORKSHIRE referrals:	Tel 0300 131 2131 (Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm) Tel 0300 131 2131 (out of hours) safeguardingchildren.co.uk
EAST RIDINGS referrals:	Tel 01482 395 500 (Mon-Thurs 8.30am-5pm Fri 8.30am-4.30pm) Tel 01482 393939 (out of hours) erscb.org.uk Advice line: Tel 01482 395 500 – option 1
Local Authority Designated Officers	York 01904 551 783 North Yorks 01609 553 080 East Riding LADO@eastriding.gov.uk