

MARTON AND NORMANBY VILLAGE HALL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Purpose

This policy defines how Marton and Normanby 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 hall including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support trustees and volunteers.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all contractors and volunteers.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- all circumstances being consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children have the best outcomes

Adults at risk of abuse or neglect – this 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 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 trustees and volunteers
- all those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property
- all visitors and contractors

4. Policy principles

- All reasonable action must be taken to protect adults at risk of abuse, exploitation 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.

Marton and Normanby Village Hall charity:

- has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
- recognises that it has a duty for care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse under the Care Act 2014. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children's Act of 1989 and 2004.
- is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to respond effectively if concerns are raised.

Marton and Normanby 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, to be effective everyone should play a part
- 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

- Trustee 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.
- All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities and will undertake training on safeguarding issues where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding board/partnership or local support organisation and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy.
- Committee members 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 appropriately vetted.
- The hall committee will follow safe recruitment practices.
- A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adults at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise to the relevant safeguarding agency.
- Suspicions or allegations against a child or adult at risk will be dealt with speedily and appropriately by the appointed person who will go to known organisations for support and advice in relation to the concern or allegation.
- An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has behaved in a way that has caused harm or may pose a risk of harm or has possibly committed an offence.
- The hall committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have a signed 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 produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- The hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

The named person is Alison Crofts-Smith

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