

Naseby Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity
Vulnerable Adult and Child Protection Policy and Principles

Policy Outline

'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect.

Committee members, staff and volunteers have a duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adult users of the Hall and its premises. They will respond to any concerns they have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a child or vulnerable person; or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a child or vulnerable person.

This policy is in place to protect all children and vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Definitions

Children

Children are defined as anyone under the age of 18 (Children Act 2004))

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring 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 (2015);DOH)

Definition of a Vulnerable Adult

A **vulnerable adult** is someone aged 18 or over: Who is or may be in need of community services due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability. And who is or may be unable to take care of himself/herself, or unable to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation. (No Secrets; 2000, DOH)

Policy Statement

- ☐ All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with immediately.
- ☐ There is a named member of the Management Committee to whom your suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person is the Designated Safeguarding Officer

for the Committee and has the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise to the Local Authority.

- ☐ All Committee members and volunteers will be provided with this policy. Relevant Acts and Guidelines are available as a reference for members.
- ☐ The Management Committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The Committee recognises that a higher standard of safety is required where use is by small children and those identified above as vulnerable adults.
- ☐ It is the Hirers responsibility to obtain a copy of the Naseby Village Hall Health and Safety Policy and to familiarise themselves with the contents. Copies are available on our website and in the Handbook in the Village Hall.
- ☐ The Committee will ensure that hirers are made aware of their obligations under the Licensing Act 2003 to ensure that alcohol is not sold to those under 18 years of age.
- ☐ The Committee will ensure that hirers are aware that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film on show.
- ☐ No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.
- ☐ Organisations hiring the hall for activities for children/vulnerable adults will be asked to show their Child Protection/Vulnerable adults policy before the first booking commences. Individuals hiring the hall for activities for children/vulnerable adults will be made aware of this policy.
- ☐ In addition any User hiring the hall to provide a facility for Children [playgroups, football training, youth clubs for example] will be required to show their DBS certificate to the Booking Secretary or other nominated committee member and the disclosure number will be recorded. Any delegation of that hirer to other people to supervise the children is the responsibility of the hirer and the Management Committee will not vet these delegates for DBS disclosure. The only exception to the above is when the hall is hired out for a private childrens party. The Management Committee take no action to vet the person[s] hiring the hall for these one-off events.
- ☐ Naseby Village Hall Management Committee do not supervise children or vulnerable adults as part of their function within the Committee. DBS checks are not required by them unless they are to have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. Should DBS checks become necessary they will be undertaken in compliance with the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Part 5 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and Part V of the Police Act 1997.
- ☐ When the Management Committee organise events to include children – it is always stated that children must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting and/or when changes occur in National Legislation or Procedures.

New Management Committee members will be provided with an understanding of their responsibilities in line with this policy.

Process

1. Safeguarding child protection concern raised
2. Designated Safeguarding Officer for the Hall advised
3. The designated Safeguarding Officer will record the allegation and report to the Trustees. This record will be maintained by the Management Committee in line with data protection requirements.