SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland 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 and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, committee members and volunteers

2. Definitions

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

Adult 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 Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:

• 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 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.

Persons affected

 All trustees, committee members and volunteers.

 All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property.

 All visitors and contractors.

3. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. 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.

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

IBW 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 responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

Safeguarding

IBW Village Hall charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

IBW Village Hall charity is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

IBW 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; and

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

4. Procedures

A. All Trustees will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office 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, undertake training where appropriate on safeguarding issues including whistleblowing where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding board/partnership or other local support organisation 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 child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.

G. The named person is Mrs A Newman

H. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:

• Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.

• Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or

• Behaved towards a child (or children) or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.

I. The hall Trustees and committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a 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 either produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when requested to do so or, confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.

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

5. Safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk

You must ensure that any activities for children, young people and adults at risk are only provided by fit and proper persons in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and 2004, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and any subsequent legislation. When requested, you must provide us with a copy of your Safeguarding Policy and evidence that you have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). All reasonable steps must be taken to prevent harm, and to respond appropriately when harm does occur. Relevant concerns must be reported.

APPENDIX A

10 actions trustee boards need to take to ensure good safeguarding governance
Safeguarding should be a key governance priority for all charities
Ensure your charity has an adequate safeguarding policy, code of conduct and any other safeguarding procedures. Regularly review and update the policy and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose
Identify possible risks, including risks to your beneficiaries or to anyone else connected to your charity and any emerging risks on the horizon
Consider how to improve the safeguarding culture within your charity
Ensure that everyone involved with the charity knows how to recognise, respond to, report and record a safeguarding concern
Ensure people know how to raise a safeguarding concern
Regularly evaluate any safeguarding training provided, ensuring it is current and relevant
Review which posts within the charity can and must have a DBS check from the Disclosure and Barring Service
Have a risk assessment process in place for posts which do not qualify for a DBS check, but which still have contact with children or adults at risk
Periodically review your safeguarding policy and procedures, learning from any serious incident or 'near miss'
If you work overseas, find out what different checks and due diligence you need to carry out in different geographical areas of operation
CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

IBBERTON, BELCHALWELL & WOOLLAND VILLAGE HALL
Reg. Charity No. 1095817
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