

FYFIELD VILLAGE HALL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Purpose

This policy defines how Fyfield Village Hall ('FVH') operates to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and safeguard adults at risk. This policy applies to all FVH trustees, volunteers, contractors and staff and will be used to support their work.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises including children 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, volunteers, contractors and staff.

Definitions

'Children' is defined as those persons aged under 18 years old;

'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; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

'Adult at risk' is defined as 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 (including financial abuse) or neglect; and
- 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.

This includes if someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service.

Policy principles

1. There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and safeguard adults at risk.
2. 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.

3. FVH has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
4. FVH recognises that under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the care and protection of adults at risk. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.
5. FVH is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
6. FVH is aware of the work of their local safeguarding board/partnership (currently the Essex Safeguarding Children Board and the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board) 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.
7. FVH is committed to the following:
 - The welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount.
 - All children 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.

Procedures

All members of the FVH management 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 all of the Policy Principles set out above.

All members of the FVH management committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.

No trustee, volunteer, contractor or member of staff will have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted and trained.

FVH will follow safe recruitment practices.

The FVH management committee will ensure that hirers are made aware of the obligations under the Licensing Act 2003 and the FVH premises licence that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film.

A member of the FVH management 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.

The named person is Karla Hirst until 31 December 2025.

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 adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.

The FVH management 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 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.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually.

Date: 20 January 2025

Next review: November 2025