

Safeguarding Policy for Strumpshaw Community Hall Management Committee ("the CHC")



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

This policy defines how the CHC 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 the CHC, volunteers, hirers and contractors.

2. Definitions

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

3. Persons affected

- All CHC members and volunteers,
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the Community Hall premises
- All hirers and contractors

4. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, 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.

The CHC has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

The CHC 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.

The CHC is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

The CHC is aware of the work of support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of adults vulnerable from abuse. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

The CHC 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.

5. Procedures

a. All members of the CHC will :-

(i) familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities and in particular, how to recognise, respond to, report and record any safeguarding concern. If a member of the CHC notices or is told something that makes them think someone is not safe or is being abused they must :-

- tell the person that they are concerned for their well-being;
- reassure them and ask them what they would like them to do;
- ask the person for their permission to tell someone else. If permission is given, the safeguarding lead referred to in 5 e below should be advised of the concerns.

If help from Social Services is needed and wanted urgently the member of the CHC can make a referral themselves to the local Safeguarding Adults Team (0344 8008020)

(ii) undertake training on safeguarding issues including whistleblowing where it is available and offered by local support organisations and

(iii) ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at 4 above and support the safeguarding lead referred to in 5e below.

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

c. All members of the CHC, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.

d. The CHC will follow safe recruitment practices.

e. A member of the CHC will be appointed to be primarily responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will be known as the safeguarding lead and will be the main point of contact for hirers or anyone regarding safeguarding at the Hall. They will have primary responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.

Such concerns will be recorded on a Safeguarding Risk Register. This should record:-

- Details of the alleged victim and abuser
- Names and contact details of any witnesses
- Date, time and location of incident
- Factual description of what happened
- Details of any action taken

It will be the primary responsibility of the safeguarding lead to decide who else should be informed taking into account whether such further dissemination would cause significant distress or threat to the individual making the disclosure. Confidentiality cannot be promised in any case where an individual may be in danger of any form of abuse.

At 1 August 2022, the named person is Tina McAulay

f. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The safeguarding lead 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 adult 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.

g. The CHC will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring agreement, which requires compliance with this Safeguarding Policy. 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 ensure that only fit and proper persons who have passed the appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (“DBS”) checks will have access to these groups. Hirers will also need to satisfy the CHC prior to the hire, of their policies with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable persons.

h. An Event Risk Management Plan will be created for all events organised or run by the CHC at the Hall that will include specific reference to the safeguarding issues arising.

i. The CHC will carry out an annual review of this policy.