

MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL



(Charity No. 1017899)

The Green, Matfield, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 7LW
www.matfieldvillagehall.org.uk
matfieldvillagehall@gmail.com
Matfield Village Hall



CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The safety of children and members of other vulnerable groups is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously, responded to swiftly and appropriately and all those entering Matfield Village Hall have a responsibility to report concerns to the named safeguarding lead. The named person is **Tina Middleton until 20/05/2023** and can be contacted by telephone on **07772 458710** or email tinaj.berry@gmail.com.

Children	Adults
Kent Social Services 03000 41 11 11 OOH - 03000 41 91 91.	Kent Social Services. 03000 41 61 61 OOH - 03000 41 91 91.

Purpose of Policy

This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. The purpose of the policy is to protect children and Vulnerable Adults who attend Matfield Village Hall. This includes the children of adults who use our services. The aim to provide agents and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding children and Vulnerable adults.

This policy applies to

- All trustees, volunteers, and agents
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property
- All visitors and contractors

2. Definitions – Children and Young People

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies

is essential in promoting young people’s welfare. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Should concerns be raised for a child or young person, it is the responsibility of the Safeguarding Lead to ensure this information is shared with the relevant agencies.

3. Definitions – Vulnerable Adults.

As defined in the Care Act 2014 an at risk is defined as.

- 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.

Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by another person or persons. It can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it. Any or all of the following types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence, omission or ignorance.

There are different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and different circumstances in which they may take place.

Safeguarding legislation in each home nation lists categories of abuse differently however, they all include the following types of abuse – Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Neglect and Financial.

Abuse can take place in any relationship and there are many contexts in which abuse might take place; e.g. Institutional abuse, Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Radicalisation, Hate Crime, Mate Crime, Cyber bullying, Scams.

4. Legislation

Children	Adult
The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974	The Human Rights Act 1998
The Children Act 1989	The Data Protection Act 2018
The Police Act 1997	General Data Protection Regulations 2018
The Data Protection Act 1998	England - The Care Act 2014 Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2014
The Human Rights Act 1998	

The Protection of Children Act 1999	England and Wales - Mental Capacity Act 2005
The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000	
The Children Act 2004	
The Protection of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.	

5. Principles of Matfield Village Hall

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

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

Matfield 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.

Matfield 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.

6. Procedures

1. All 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 children and vulnerable adults.
2. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training 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.
3. All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
4. All members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
5. The hall committee will follow safe recruitment practices.
6. 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 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.

Matfield Village Hall 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 Uphold Matfield Village Hall's Safeguarding Policy, In the event if this is not produced Matfield Village Hall reserve the right to cancel the booking if necessary.

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

Date	24/02/2021
Amended	28/11/2021
Amended	20/05/2022
Review	20/05/2023