

LIGHTHORNE VILLAGE HALL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APRIL 2021

Lighthorne Village Hall provides an environment in which children and vulnerable adults are safe from abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to. Whilst the Village Hall Trustees do not normally run any children's club or activity, and do not normally have unaccompanied contact with children under the auspices of the Village Hall, they will comply with this policy where applicable and require that every hirer whose hire involves children or vulnerable adults has a policy that complies with current legislation and the requirements set out below. Any staff employed by the Trustees shall comply with this policy.

Along with Lighthorne Village Hall, each Hirer should ensure they have a nominated individual with responsibility to comply with our Safeguarding policy and have undertaken any necessary training. They should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person. This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Principles

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, financial, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children and vulnerable adults not be permitted or tolerated.

Policy Statement

1. No Trustee, helper or other volunteer or staff will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless they have been through the safe recruitment procedure and introductory Child Protection or Vulnerable Adults Protection training.
2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a vulnerable adult or child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
3. All staff and volunteers need to be aware of this policy and attend any necessary training courses.
4. There will be a nominated and name Vulnerable Users representative to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported.

5. The trustees will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The trustees recognise that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled adults.

6. Any organisations or individuals hiring the Hall for the purpose of holding activities where Ofsted registration is required should make available, if asked to do so, their registration and their own Child Protection Policy. Safe recruitment processes should be used to appoint staff who will be working with children or vulnerable adults in any kind of activity.

7. The trustees 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 the age of 18. 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 or show. No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

8. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

The nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult representative will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency. The representative may choose to have a confidential discussion with others in order to clear up any misunderstandings or to corroborate and support any suspicions before reporting a concern to the lead agency.

The nominated person (Lighthorne Village Hall and Hirer) should:

- Know who to contact in the Warwickshire County Council Multi Agency Safeguarding hub (MASH) on 01926 414144, for advice and referrals.
- Ensure that there is an environment in which people have the opportunity to raise any issues regarding child protection or vulnerable adults.