

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

Front Street
Topcliffe
North Yorkshire
YO7 3RJ
Reg. Charity No. 1003803



September 2023

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults' Policy

The Lead Safeguarding Committee Member is: Linda Robinson

1. Purpose

- To ensure the Village Hall Committee does everything it can to keep its premises safe for all children, young people and vulnerable adults and to respond appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.
- To ensure that Trustees are not inadvertently placed in a position where they could be accused of any form of abuse of children, young people or vulnerable adults.

2. Scope

The policy applies to all Trustees and Committee Members who act on behalf of the organisation and who may come directly into contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults (hereafter referred to as 'the people or person'). They have a responsibility to inform the Safeguarding Lead of concerns relating to safeguarding of any person. The Safeguarding Lead must decide if the concerns should be communicated to North Yorkshire County Council's Social Care Team or the police.

3. Policy Statements

The Village Hall Committee recognises that all people have a right to protection from abuse. It takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard their welfare. It will:

- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse, and provide parents and children, vulnerable adults and their carers/family member with the opportunity to voice their concerns.
- Have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Maintain good links with statutory childcare and adult safeguarding authorities.

The Village Hall Committee recognises that some people maybe the victim of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Accordingly, it has adopted this policy (hereafter 'the policy') which sets out agreed guidelines relating to responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against users of the hall, volunteers and Trustees and Committee Members.

Individual Trustees will not normally have direct access to children or vulnerable adults, unless they themselves are the organisers of an activity. On such occasions they should not undertake the activity alone and should have at least one other responsible adult with them throughout the activity.

4. Policy Definitions

Child/young person: any individual who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.

Vulnerable adult: an individual who is aged 18 or over who is in, or may need, community care services because of a mental or other disability, age or illness and is someone who could be unable to look after themselves or protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a person. Somebody may abuse or neglect a person by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. The abuse could occur in a family, in an institutional or in a community setting by a person or persons known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet).

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or action which may otherwise causing physical harm to a person. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a person in their care.

Emotional Abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on their emotional development or wellbeing. It may involve:

- conveying that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.
- not giving them opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.
- age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children or young people. These may include interactions that are beyond a child / young person's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child/young person participating in normal social interaction. In the case of a vulnerable adult, it may include limiting their social interaction.
- seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another person.
- serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing a person to feel frightened or in danger, or exploited or corrupted.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a person, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse: involves forcing or enticing a person to take part in sexual activities including sexual exploitation, which may not necessarily involve a high level of violence, whether or not they are aware of what is happening. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can children.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as looking at, or the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging sexually inappropriate behaviour, or grooming in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Neglect: is the persistent failure to meet a person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the individual's development or wellbeing.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Neglect may involve a parent/family member or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment).
- protect a child, young person or vulnerable adult from physical and emotional harm or danger.
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers).

- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, an individual's basic emotional needs.

5. Responsibilities

Trustees have a responsibility for the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. They must be aware of who the Safeguarding Lead is so that they can act in a timely way if they have any concerns about a safeguarding matter.

Any organisations or individuals hiring the village hall for the purposes of holding activities where Ofsted registration is required must show their registration and their own Child Protection Policy.

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 Trustees 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.

Any Trustees or volunteers who suspects abuse or who has a disclosure of abuse made to them, should discuss this immediately with the Safeguarding Lead Committee Member. All discussions should be handled in a sensitive and confidential manner. The Safeguarding Lead will make appropriate referrals to the authorities:

- North Yorkshire County Council on 01609 780780. The Customer Service Team will take details and decide what action needs to be taken and how quickly.
- In an emergency the Police should be called on 999. For non-emergency police referral call 101.

The Village Hall Committee will provide all Trustees with adequate safeguarding training in order to carry out their role and responsibilities under this policy. Individuals within the organisation need to be alert to the potential abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults both within the family and also from other sources, including abuse by volunteers.

This policy will be reviewed and updated at every AGM and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

Approved by the Village Hall Committee May 2021

Reviewed: June 2022

Revised: September 2023

Reviewed January 2024