

BELSTONE VILLAGE HALL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

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, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children or vulnerable adults will not be permitted or tolerated.

The Belstone Village Hall Management Committee has a duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults who utilise the hall and its facilities, and those who may come into contact with vulnerable users.

Definition of Abuse

Abuse is described as *“a violation of an individual’s human or civil rights by any other person or persons”* (No Secrets, Department of Health - 2000).

Definition of a Vulnerable Adult

A vulnerable adult is defined as a person who: *“may be in need of services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness: and who may not be able to take care of him or herself, or is unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.”* (Who Decides, Lord Chancellor’s Department – 1997]

This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

POLICY STATEMENT.

- All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. There is a named member of the Management Committee to whom your suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person is Edwina Hill until April 2014. This person has the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the Local Authority Child Protection agency.
- The Management Committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults.
- **Activities Groups that take place at Belstone Village Hall that involve children and vulnerable adults will need to comply with the requirements for safeguarding. It is the responsibility of the organisers of these groups to ensure that they comply and have all the appropriate policies and procedures in place. Each group should have its own safeguarding policy irrespective of the frequency at which it uses the Village Hall.**
- With regard to Hirers of the Hall, it is the Hirers’ responsibility to ensure that they have appropriate policies and procedures in place if they are running events that

involve vulnerable users. It is required that all users in this situation state this on the hire agreement.

- The only exception to the above is when the hall is hired out for a private children's party. The Management Committee take no action to vet the person[s] hiring the hall for these one-off events

GENERAL POINTS

- Belstone Village Hall Management Committee do not supervise children or vulnerable adults as part of their function within the Committee. DBS checks are not required by them unless they are to have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. Should DBS checks become necessary they will be undertaken in compliance with the Protection of Children Act [1999], The Children's Act [2004] and part V of the Police Act [1997].
- When the Management Committee organise events to include children – it is always stated that children must be accompanied by parents or guardians.
- This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting and/or when changes occur in National Legislation or Procedures. New Management Committee members will be provided with an understanding of their responsibilities in line with this policy.

Belstone Village Hall Management Committee July 2014