



Belstone Village Hall Safeguarding Policy

This statement of policy and procedures applies to users of, and activities in, Belstone Village Hall and any ancillary activities which are the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee. This policy is in place to protect all children and vulnerable adults regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. All people associated with the Village Hall and its use, have a responsibility for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

No member of the Village Hall Committee, Village Hall staff, outside contractors, hirers or volunteers will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless in possession of appropriate DBS clearance.

The Village Hall Manager will ensure that all hirers/users of the Hall are aware that the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the hirer(s).

If, on any occasion, facilities such as the toilets or kitchen need to be shared with other groups, the Hall Manager will inform the hirers of the need to be aware and that appropriate supervision/arrangements should be made.

The Committee 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 and that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film or show. No commercial gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

Acceptance of the Village Hall's safeguarding policy is part of the agreed contract taken out on hiring the Hall.

"If you see something, say something"

Policy Statement

1. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a vulnerable adult or child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
2. All Village Hall Committee members, staff and volunteers need to be aware of this policy and should be offered safeguarding awareness training.
3. The Village Hall Committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. Committee members recognise that a higher standard of safety is required when children and vulnerable adults are present.
4. Social distancing measures introduced by the government during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic mean many organisations that work with children and vulnerable adults have had to change the way they operate on a day-to-day basis. A risk assessment should be provided by the hirer, to include how they will mitigate any risk to vulnerable adults, children and their parents/carers and this must be agreed by the Hall Manager prior to any use of the village hall. This will be subject of continuous review throughout the next 12 months with amendments being made as the government policy and/or public health advice changes.
5. This policy and associated procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.
6. The nominated Safeguarding Officer will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, to the relevant local authority safeguarding lead agency or to the police. They will ensure that there is an environment in which people have the opportunity to raise safeguarding concerns and that they feel able to report safeguarding issues.
7. The nominated Safeguarding Officer will ensure they know:
 - the Social Services referral process
 - what information will be required and in what format
 - how to keep confidential records and to adhere to GDPR
 - the Social Services point of contact for safeguarding advice

The relevant addresses for these can be found in the Safeguarding file, stored on the shelf in the Bar.

The Village Hall Management Committee nominated Safeguarding Officer is Melanie Pike.

Any suspicions or concerns should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer via email melpike@belstonevillage.net or, in her absence, to the Chair via email chair@belstonevillage.net