

Preamble

This policy defines how Clapham-cum-Newby village Hall operates to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises, including children, young people and adults at risk, as visitors and/or as participants in any of our activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers and staff.

Version and modification history

This is version 1.1 of the policy, dated May 2024 and correcting a typo that had slipped through the net when the policy was created in April 2023. The policy is reviewed annually.

Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect is defined, for the purposes of this policy as someone over 18 years old who, according to Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:

- 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.

Persons affected

All trustees, volunteers, and staff.

All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity's property.

All visitors and contractors.

Policy

1. There can be no excuse for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness.
2. Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall Committee has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, and recognises that, under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.
3. Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall Committee is committed to the following principles:
 - a. The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount.
 - b. All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse.
 - c. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
 - d. All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Procedures

1. All members of the committee will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for trustees which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
2. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training where appropriate 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.
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. A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.
7. The named person is Angie Martin.
8. 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 adults at risk who has:
 - a. Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
 - b. Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or
 - c. Behaved towards a child (or children) or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.

9. The 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 adhere to the hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.
10. The village hall committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.