

Leighs Village Hall

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults

Safeguarding Policy

All Leighs Village Hall Council of management members, staff and volunteers have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of the Hall and its facilities and those who may come into contact with vulnerable users. Vulnerable users could include: children, young people, adults with learning difficulties or physical disability, frail, elderly people and carers.

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 is not be permitted or tolerated.

Policy Statement

1. No member of the trustees, helpers or other volunteers 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 should be offered introductory training.
4. The Management Committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The Committee recognises 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.

Last reviewed 18/2/2018

5. Any organisations or individuals hiring the Hall for the purpose of holding activities where Ofsted registration is required should show 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.

6. 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. 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.

7. These policies and procedures will be reviewed regularly and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

The management committee has agreed that any trustee of the village hall who has become aware or is made aware of any safeguarding concern relating to a vulnerable adult or child will use the contact list below to make the appropriate body aware of such concerns.

* Know who to contact at the local authority

* Know who to contact in Social Services for advice and referrals

* Know about helplines and other sources of help for children and young people and vulnerable adults

* Ensure that there is an environment in which people have the opportunity to raise any child protection or vulnerable adult protection concerns.

Child Protection:

Essex Safeguarding Children Board – Children & Families Hub – 0345 6037627

NSPCC – www.nspcc.org.uk or 0116 234 7223

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline - [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

Vulnerable Adults Protection:

Action on Elder abuse – Helpline 0808 808 8141

Age Concern – Helpline 0800 009966

Social Care Direct – 0845 606 1212 to make a referral.

Adult Safeguards Unit (Essex) – 01245 434861

AskSAL – Confidential phone line for advice and referrals 0808 80 10 345

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