

# Orlingbury Village Hall Safeguarding Policy

## **1. Purpose**

This policy defines how Orlingbury Village Hall operates to safeguard all people from harm and abuse

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. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and community

## **2. Definitions**

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all contractors and volunteers using the premises.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

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

Adults at risk of harm and abuse. For the purposes of this policy, an adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to the Care Act 2022:

- has care and support needs
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, harm and abuse as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the harm and abuse 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.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall
- All visitors and contractors.

## **3. Policy principles**

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from harm and abuse. 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.

- Orlingbury Village Hall charity has a zero-tolerance to harm and abuse.
- Orlingbury Village Hall charity recognises that under the Care Act 2022, 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, 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- Orlingbury Village Hall charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- Orlingbury Village Hall charity is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support networks on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk.

Orlingbury Village Hall Committee is committed to the following principles:

- The safety and security of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount.
- All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from harm.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
- All suspicions and allegations of harm and abuse must be properly reported to the relevant external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

#### **4. Procedures**

- a. 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 harm and abuse.
- b. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, and know how to report any issues locally to the correct support services and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at 3 above.
- c. All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding to be addressed.
- d. All members of the committee and users of the hall will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately DBS checked
- e. The committee will follow safe recruitment practices.
- f. A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for safeguarding This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.
- g. The named person is .....Susan Cole.....
- h. All suspicions or allegations of harm and 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, or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:
  - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.



- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or
- 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

The hall committee requires all hirers to sign 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 provide a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and confirm that as directed by law relevant DBS checks for supervising adults have been obtained. Or they have understood and will adhere to the hall's procedures with regard to safeguarding.

The village hall management committee will carry out a bi-annual review of this policy.

Dated: 1/3/2023

Signed: 

Print Name of Signature: SUSAN COLE

Reviewed & agreed 28/8/2025. 