

## **Southwater Village Hall Management Committee**

### **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

#### Background

Southwater Village Hall is run by the Members of its Management Committee. It currently has no employees.

Nick Longdon is the appointed committee member responsible for safeguarding. All Members of the Management Committee have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of the Hall.

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.

Vulnerable users could include:

- children
- young people
- adults with learning difficulties or physical disability
- frail, elderly people
- carers

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

#### **Policy Statement**

1. No member of the Committee will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless they have been appropriately vetted and trained.
2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
3. All members of the Committee will be made aware of this policy and safeguarding issues that arise.
4. A member of the Committee will be nominated to be responsible for safeguarding to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported.

5. The Management Committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The Management Committee recognise that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled children and adults.
6. Any organisations or individuals hiring the Hall for the purposes of holding activities where Ofsted registration is required should show their registration and their own safeguarding policy.
7. The Management 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. It will also 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.
8. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim period.

#### Procedures

1. All members of the Committee will be given information about safeguarding and will be encouraged to attend appropriate training where possible.
2. An annual review will take place following the AGM to allow for any required update of policies and or procedures. New members of the Committee must be given an induction to this policy and understand their responsibilities.
3. A copy of the policy will be displayed for the attention of all in the Village Hall, on the Village Hall website, and be made available on request to hirers.
4. Organisations hiring the Hall for activities for children will be asked to show their safeguarding policy before the first booking commences. Individuals hiring the Hall for activities for children will be made aware of this policy. Organisations hiring the hall for activities specifically involving vulnerable adults will be asked to show their vulnerable adults safeguarding policy before the first booking commences. Other organisations or individuals hiring the Hall whose activities may involve vulnerable adults will be made aware of this policy.
5. The Management Committee will require hirers to report any damage, breakages or safety issues needing attention to the booking secretary, who will inform the appropriate people. These will be dealt with as soon as practicable, in the light of the circumstances, with provision to prevent access by children and vulnerable adults pending repair where appropriate.
6. A hiring agreement which includes appropriate clauses will be entered into for all hirings for licensable activities. The Management Committee will ensure these provisions are observed when holding licensable activities themselves.

7. Contractors engaged to carry out work at the premises must not be allowed unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. Appropriate supervision will be arranged if necessary.
8. If the premises might be used by more than one hirer, the attention of hirers will be drawn to the need to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are supervised when using toilets.

Originally agreed by Southwater Village Hall Management Committee on 13.01.2021

Policy reviewed by Southwater Village Hall Management Committee on 13.05.23

Policy to be reviewed in May 2025 change review date