



Safeguarding Policy (updated April 2023)

1 Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from harm, abuse or neglect

This policy defines how Allendale Village Hall and Recreation Ground, registered charity 1011360, operates to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of harm, abuse or neglect who may be visitors or participants in activities or at events. We also have a duty to safeguard our trustees, staff and volunteers.

2 Definitions

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

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable children to have the best outcomes

Adults at risk of harm, abuse or neglect is defined in this policy as someone who is over the age of 18 years and who according to the Care Act 2014 section 42:

- Has care and support needs
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of harm, abuse or neglect
- As a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect themselves against harm, abuse or neglect or the risk of it

Persons affected

- All Trustees, staff and volunteers
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from Allendale Village Hall and Recreation Ground
- All visitors and contractors

3 Policy principles

There can be no excuse for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk of harm, abuse or neglect. We recognise the vulnerabilities of those people who are children and/or who have disability, impairment or illness.

Therefore, Allendale Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trustees take a zero - tolerance approach to abuse.

The Trustees are familiar with current underpinning legislation and guidance for children and vulnerable adults and the attendant duty of care and seeks to remain abreast of any legislative changes and guidance provided by Government.

The Trustees of Allendale Village Hall and Recreation Ground are committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

The Trustees of Allendale Village Hall and Recreation Ground are aware of the work of local safeguarding boards/partnership and other support organisations involved in the implementations of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk.

The Trustees of Allendale Village Hall and Recreation Ground are committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child or adult at risk is paramount.
- All children and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant authorities and dealt with swiftly.

4 Procedures

- 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.
- All trustees will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake safeguarding training where appropriate and ensure they understand the principles set out in this policy at 3 above.
- All trustees will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- All trustees, volunteers or helpers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- A Trustee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters, this person will report concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.

- The named person is Trustee, Christine Garner, until April 2024.
- All suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation, a concern about 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:
 - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or who has physically 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 adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.
- The Trustees will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring agreement. This will require all hirers who wish to use the hall and recreation ground which include children and adults at risk, (other than hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family) to either produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service, or to confirm they have understood and will adhere to Allendale Village Hall and Recreation Ground's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.
- The Trustees will carry out an annual review of this policy.

Written by Christine Garner, Trustee, April 2023.