

WINTERSLOW VILLAGE HALL

Vulnerable Adult and Child Safeguarding Policy

Approved by Committee in October 2018

Policy Statement:

Winterslow Village Hall Management Committee recognises that it has a statutory and moral duty to ensure that it safeguards young people and vulnerable adults from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith during their time spent at the Village Hall. Winterslow Village Hall is committed therefore to ensuring that the Management Committee, volunteers and those participating in activities held in the hall have an understanding of what forms abuse may take and that they know where to raise concerns if abuse is suspected or reported.

Definition of a child:

A child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. In this policy 'children' means 'children and young people'.

Definition of a Vulnerable Adult:

A vulnerable adult is defined as a person who may be in need of services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who may not be able to take care of him or herself, or is unable to protect him or herself against violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Definition of Abuse:

Abuse is described as a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons.

Abuse includes:

- Physical abuse including hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions.
- Sexual abuse including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts against a child or to which a vulnerable adult has not consented, or could not consent or was pressurised into consenting
- Psychological abuse including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. Emotional abuse, belittling, name calling
- Financial or material abuse including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or
- Neglect and acts of omission, leaving in soiled clothes, failing to feed properly

- Discriminatory abuse including racist, sexist, based on a person's disability and other forms of harassment
- Institutional

Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts.

General:

Acceptance of the Winterslow Village Hall's safeguarding policy is part of the agreed contract taken out on hiring the Hall. Any organisations or individuals hiring the hall for the purposes of holding activities involving children or vulnerable adults are confirming by signing the terms and conditions of booking that they have appropriate safeguarding procedures in place.

All Committee Members will be made aware of child protection and vulnerable adult issues.

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 Hall's appropriate notices will be displayed on the bar.

No children may be admitted to films when they are below the age of classification for the film or show. No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

Hirers need to be aware that facilities such as toilets may be shared with other groups and that appropriate supervision/arrangements should be made.

Anyone visiting the Village Hall and wishing to take a photograph of a child or children should be aware that permission should be obtained from a parent or carer firstly to take the photograph and secondly to reproduce it. Photographs of children should only be used if written consent has been obtained from a parent, guardian or carer.

As part of the Village Hall's GDPR policy records will be maintained securely and confidentiality respected.

In case of concern:

All users of the Hall, hirers, volunteers and contractors must report any suspicions of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult to a member of the Executive Committee. Concerns or allegations of abuse will be listened to and taken seriously and passed on to the relevant agency. Where appropriate, agreement should be obtained from a child's parents or guardian and from the vulnerable adult him/herself or his/her carer before sharing personal information with third parties. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times and information will be shared on a 'need to know' basis with the person making the allegation, the relevant authorities and the parents, carer or guardian.

This policy is reviewed and approved by the Management Committee annually or at any other time if legislation changes.

A copy of this document is available on the Village Hall website www.winterslowvillagehall.org.uk and is displayed for the attention of all on the notice board in the lobby.