

Shearsby Village Hall Charitable Trust

Charity Number: 1060990



Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding is
Everyone's Responsibility

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1. Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. This policy defines how Shearsby Village Hall operates to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

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 at risk. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

2. Definitions

Children and young people

The definition is those persons aged under 18 years old.

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 grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect

For the purposes of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:

- has care and support needs
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of their care and support needs are unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect 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, and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the Shearsby 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 abuse or neglect. 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.

Shearsby Village Hall Charitable Trust has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Shearsby Village Hall Charitable Trust recognises that under the Care Act 2014, 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 and 2004.

Shearsby Village Hall Charitable Trust is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

Shearsby Village Hall is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk it may occur.

Shearsby Village Hall trustees are committed to the following principles:

- The welfare 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 abuse.
- 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 abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and 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 abuse.
- B. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, and undertake training where appropriate on safeguarding issues
- C. All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- D. All members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- E. The hall committee will follow safer recruitment practices
- F. A member of Shearsby Village Hall Charitable Trust, or designated person, will be given responsibility for safeguarding matters, including, reporting concerns to the relevant safeguarding agency as a matter of urgency.
- G. All suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The safeguarding trustee will contact the relevant authority for support and advice

An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed 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;
 - Behaved in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.
- H. The hall committee will ensure that all hirers using the hall for activities including children and adults at risk, can produce a safeguarding policy or confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the hall's safeguarding principles and procedures. This doesn't include hirers for private parties arranged for invited friends and family.
 - I. The village hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

Safeguarding person designated by the Trustees:

ManLan Adams 07368260982

Date: October 2024