

COBHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHILD PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE ADULT POLICY

Policy statement

Cobham village hall is responsible for ensuring that those benefiting from, or working with, the hall are not harmed in any way through contact with it. We have a legal duty to act prudently and will take all reasonable steps within our power to ensure the safety of children, young adults under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults by protecting them from all forms of abuse including physical, emotional and sexual harm regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith. It is the duty of the Village hall committee to check that any organisations hiring out the hall that undertake 'regulated activities', have the necessary checks and registrations in place to ensure their safety.

Policy procedures

- The welfare of the child is paramount, Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children or vulnerable persons will not be permitted or tolerated.
- No child or group of children will be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access services which meet their particular needs.
- All children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
- All concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to children's social care services, the independent Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for allegations against staff, trustees and other volunteers, and in emergencies, the Police
- A commitment to safe recruitment, selection and vetting will be in place with a board of management responsible. All applicants should have two references and be willing to undertake a CRB check.
- This policy will apply to all trustees, staff and volunteers, no member of staff or committee will be allowed unsupervised access to children unless the necessary CRB checks have been done.
- All staff to be made aware of the disclosure procedure and what to do next in a suspected case of abuse.

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- The 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. The committee will 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.
- This policy will be reviewed annually and agreed by the management committee any amendments will be signed as seen by the staff and committee members. A copy of the policy will be displayed for the attention of all in the village hall and made available on request to hirers.
- For current guidance on safeguarding, legislation and resources see GOV.UK.

Two documents are particularly helpful:

[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused \(2006\)](#)

[Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children \(2013\)](#)

Further advice and support

At any stage you may wish to seek further advice or support from the following sources:

Child Protection: NSPCC – www.nspcc.org.uk or 0116 234 7223

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline – 0808 800 5000

Criminal Records Bureau – www.disclosure.gov.uk

Save the Children – www.scfuk.org.uk Early Years Partnerships – based in County Council Social Services depts.

Vulnerable Adults Protection: Action on Elder Abuse – helpline 0808 808 814