

BARROWAY DROVE VILLAGE HALL SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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

The Barroway Drove Village Hall Management Committee has a duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults who use the hall and its facilities.

Definition of Abuse

Abuse is described as ***“a violation of an individual’s human or civil rights by any other person or persons”*** (No Secrets, Department of Health - 2000).

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 significant harm or exploitation.”*** (Who Decides, Lord Chancellor’s Department – 1997]

This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

POLICY STATEMENT

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. Any suspicions or concerns about the welfare of any child or vulnerable adult should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer, who will report any concerns, as a matter of urgency, to the Local Authority Child Protection agency.

The Management Committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults.

Activity Groups that take place at Barroway Drove Village Hall that involve children and vulnerable adults will need to comply with the requirements for safeguarding. It is the responsibility of the organisers of these groups to ensure that they comply and have all the appropriate policies and procedures in place. Each group should have its own safeguarding policy irrespective of the frequency at which it uses the Village Hall.

With regard to Hirers of the Hall, it is the Hirers’ responsibility to ensure that they have appropriate policies and procedures in place if they are running events that involve vulnerable users. The only exception to this is when the hall is hired out for a private children’s party. The Management Committee take no action to vet the person[s] hiring the hall for these one-off events.

GENERAL POINTS

Barroway Drove Village Hall Management Committee does not supervise children or vulnerable adults as part of their function within the Committee. DBS checks are not required by them unless they are to have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. Should DBS checks become necessary they will be undertaken in compliance with the Protection of Children Act [1999], The Children’s Act [2004] and part V of the Police Act [1997].

When the Management Committee organise events to include children it is always stated that children under eight must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

This policy will be reviewed annually. Last review: May 2022

The Designated Safeguarding Officer for Barroway Drove Village Hall is Vicki Howling, who can be contacted on 01366 382380