



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Village Hall Management Committee.

Adopted: Village Hall Management Committee Meeting 26th March 2024 Minute Ref: V23/35 (a)

Reviewed:

INTRODUCTION

Children, young people, and vulnerable adults have the right to participate and be safe in the services provided for them regardless of age, race, disability, culture, or gender. This includes a right to protection from abuse. There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998 and 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.

This policy defines how Great Horkesley Parish Council ('the Council') operates to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable 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 involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our staff and volunteers and must ensure that the needs and interests of children, young people, and vulnerable adults are considered when taking decisions in relation to service provision.

DEFINITIONS

'Children and young people' are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old.

For the purpose of this policy, 'vulnerable adults' refers to someone 18 years old or over 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 is 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.

POLICY STATEMENT & PRINCIPLES

The Council 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.

Great Horkesley Parish Council is 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.
- The Council has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and neglect.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility; for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

In Essex safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is an inter-agency responsibility involving Colchester City Council, Essex County Council, the Essex Safeguarding Children Board and the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board.

PROCEDURES

The Council will promote the welfare and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults within all its services and activities by:

- Ensuring all members, staff, and volunteers of the Council familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, understand the different forms of abuse, undertake training where appropriate and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy above.
- Respecting the rights, wishes, feelings, and privacy of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Promoting a culture that enables issues about safeguarding to be addressed.
- Taking seriously and responding appropriately and promptly to all concerns, incidents, suspicions, and allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk. 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 towards a child (or children) or adult at risk in a way that indicated they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.
- Not tolerating harassment of any Councillors, employees, volunteers, contracted service providers or children or vulnerable adults who raise concerns of abuse.
- Ensuring all Councillors, staff, helpers, and other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- Following safe recruitment practices.

The Clerk and is appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.

The Village Hall Committee will ensure that all hirers of the Village Hall have signed a hiring agreement. This will require all hirers who wish to use the hall for activities which include children and/or adults at risk, other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family, to either produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) when requested to do so, or confirm that they have read, understood, and will adhere to the Council's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.

**If anyone has a cause for concern, please contact the Parish Clerk:
parish-clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk**