

## **Ferring Village Hall**

### **Safeguarding Policy**

**(to be read in conjunction with Ferring Village Hall's procedure document)**

#### **1. Purpose**

**Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.**

Ferring Village Hall (Charity No. 1167736) is a registered charity whose objects are to run a village hall and to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Ferring without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions the provision of facilities for recreation and leisure.

Ferring Village Hall provides community facilities for a cross section of social and instructive activities and events. It is a hub of Ferring Village and is a community asset designed to be as flexible as possible to meet the varying needs of the local community. The premises comprise a spacious main hall and two separate meeting rooms. The rooms are centrally heated and are naturally ventilated. The Village Hall has been designed in accordance with current regulations for disabled parking, disabled access and a disabled toilet. The village hall amenities have been used by and for the benefit of the inhabitants of Ferring Village since the 1920s.

Ferring Village Hall occasionally holds its own events but generally does not provide activities directly. Rather such activities are operated by external organisations or third parties hiring out space from Ferring Village Hall. Ferring Village Hall recognises that many activities conducted at the village hall are for the benefit of children and young people.

This policy defines how Ferring Village Hall operates to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Safeguarding means the range of measures we have in place to protect people in our organisation, or those we come into contact with, from abuse and maltreatment of any kind.

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 involved as visitors and/or as participants in activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees and volunteers.

This policy will apply to all trustees, volunteers, hirers, participants in any activities, events or services and contractors.

#### **2. Definitions**

**Children and young people** are defined as 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 paragraph 14.2 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 himself or herself 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.

### 3. Persons affected

- All trustees and volunteers
  
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property
- All visitors and contractors.

### 4. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, and mistreatment. 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.

Ferring Village Hall has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Ferring Village Hall 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.

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

Ferring Village Hall Committee (trustees) 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
- 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.

### 5. Procedures

- a. All members of the committee will have signed a Trustee Statement of Eligibility form 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 the principles set out in this and other relevant policies and procedures, including whistleblowing.
  
- 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 safe recruitment practices.
  
- f. A member of the committee will be 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 named person is **Tori Monroe** until the next review

- g. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation a concern about the quality of care or practice or a

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

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk 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; or
- behaved towards a child or children or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

h. The hall committee will require all hirers who wish to use the hall for activities which include children and adults at risk, other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family, to confirm that they have their own appropriate Safeguarding Policy in place and that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Ferring Village Hall reserves the right to require hirers to produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence of DBS checks.

i. The village hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

This procedure was approved by the Trustees on 17 May 2023

This policy will be reviewed in 2024