



## **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

### **Policy Statement:**

Hartpury Village Hall recognises that it has a statutory and moral duty to ensure that it safeguards and promotes the welfare of young people during their time spent at the Village Hall. The Village Hall recognises that some adults are also vulnerable to abuse. Accordingly, the procedures may be applied (with appropriate adaptations) to allegations of abuse and the protection of vulnerable adults.

Hartpury Village Hall intends to create an environment in which children and vulnerable adults are protected from physical, sexual and emotional harm and in which any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to. This policy will apply directly to any activities organised and / or carried out by Hartpury Village Hall, and in addition the Trustees will take steps to ensure that every hirer whose hire involves children acts in compliance with current legislation and the requirements set out below. Any staff employed by the trustees shall comply with this policy.

### **The Village Hall will seek to safeguard children by:**

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made and training received.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and open communication.

### **The Village Hall recognises that children, young people and vulnerable adults may suffer abuse in different ways:**

- **Physically:** Any purposeful acts of violence causing injury.
- **Sexually:** The exploitation of authority or power to involve a child in sexual gratification.
- **Emotionally:** Emotional ill-treatment or rejection affecting emotional or behavioural development.
- **Neglect:** Failure to provide a child with basic needs including access to adequate food, health care or education.
- Staff and volunteers will be on guard to spot the signs and symptoms of abuse that can include:
  - Physical signs such as changes in appearance, injuries and marks, and
  - Changes to a child's behaviour.

In order to achieve a child safe environment the Trustees will:



### **Ensure all relevant hirers have a Child Protection Policy**

The Trustees require all hirers working with children on a regular basis to have an approved child protection policy. This must include appropriate provisions to ensure that:

- good working practices for working with children are applied
- known abusers are excluded
- appropriate training is provided for paid staff and volunteers
- suspicions of abuse are reported and followed up appropriately and promptly
- appropriate records are maintained.

Occasional hirers, e.g. for children's parties, do not require their own approved policy but will need to observe the requirements of this policy.

### **Ensure all relevant people have a current Criminal Records Bureau check**

The Trustees require that anyone who has unaccompanied contact with children at the Village Hall, other than a parent / carer, shall hold a current CRB check.

### **Respond appropriately to suspicions of abuse**

Where abuse is suspected:

- Staff/volunteers will offer support and guidance to the young person and ensure their current safety.
- Depending on the circumstances parents / carers shall normally be the first point of reference, though suspicions will also be referred where appropriate to Social Services. Whenever a parent or carer is suspected of being involved in abuse, Social Services will be the first point of reference.
- Staff/volunteers will record incidents and make the necessary agencies aware of any potential for concern.
- If unsure about the level of risk or appropriate support, staff/volunteers can seek advice by contacting Young Gloucestershire on 01452 501008.
- Staff or volunteers will inform the relevant external agencies of any issues for concern and pass them a written record of any incidents or disclosures, to be kept securely by them.
- Privacy and confidentiality will be respected where possible but if doing this leaves a child at risk of harm, then the child's safety will always come first.

### **Appoint a Committee member responsible for Child Protection**

The Hartpury Village Hall Committee will nominate a member responsible for Child Protection matters.

## SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURE

