



Millbrook Village Hall

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

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Introduction

This policy applies to the Board of Trustees, volunteers who serve on the Management Committee, and anyone who works for **this** hall in any capacity.

It refers to the general principles set out by the NSPCC together with Cornwall Rural Communities Charity (CRCC) materials and is tailored to the particular circumstances of running the hall.

The Aim is that any child, young person or vulnerable adult who visits the hall, whether attending a class or timetabled session, or as a casual visitor, is protected from harm.

The Aim is also to identify ways in which we can improve our approach to the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. This will include time given over to raising our awareness of the principles involved.

How to report a concern

The key message from the NSPCC is that “all matters should be reported”.

The Management Committee does not aim to act collectively when it comes to reporting, but we will be keen to respond to any suggestions as to how we might improve on making the hall a safer place.

Anyone, whether committee member, hirer, or visitor with concerns for a child, young person or vulnerable adult, and thinking they might be at risk of physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, neglect or bullying from other children should:

For a child or young person, phone MARU (Multi-Agency Referral Unit was Social Sevices) on 0300 123 1116

MARU provides a multi-disciplinary response to concerns about the welfare or safety of a child in line with the LSCB guidance on interagency thresholds /continuum of need.

For a vulnerable adult, call Cornwall Council on 0300 123 4131

The person answering you will be a Social Worker or Case Worker.

You might be asked for your name, but you are not obliged to give it.

You can also call NSPCC on 0808 800 500

Useful websites are:

www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/child-protection-and-safeguarding/

www.cornwall.gov.uk/safeguardingadults/

www.nspcc.org.uk

The NSPCC website provides a model for reporting and recording as well as advice for every eventuality including e-safety issues and whistle blowing.

Procedures

The Committee endorses the statement by NSPCC that concerns should be reported.

As part of the booking conditions, each hirer is required to disclose, but not prove, whether they have DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service – formally CRB) clearance and a Safeguarding Policy, if they are likely to come into contact with Children and Under 18s, whether vulnerable or not, and Vulnerable Adults.

(NSPCC – the Committee can expect any hirer “to have in place its own policy and that the named person take a lead in its development” and to “follow their own child/vulnerable adult procedures rather than expecting the hall to deal with it”)

The Committee will need to be particularly aware when groups of different-aged children and young people might be in the building at the same time.

The Committee itself does not deliver any services direct, except where, through a working committee, it has hosted films, music and theatre events when children, young people and vulnerable adults are free to attend, and for which the hall has its own Lead Person as detailed below. Children are expected to attend with an adult known to them or with a sibling of at least 12 years.

The Committee requires hirers to act as the “Lead Person” with regard to child/vulnerable adult issues, or to give the name of the Lead Person if not the hirer. The Committee can recommend relevant guidance from NSPCC or CRCC.

The Committee may decide to take action where it decides that a hirer has failed to act. **The Lead Person on Child/Vulnerable Adult Protection for Millbrook Village Hall is Clare Watkins who can be contacted at millbrookvillagehall@gmail.com**

What is abuse

CRCC (2017) defines it as follows :-

“Abuse is actual, or potential, harm or exploitation of a person.

Abuse can consist of a single act or repeated acts.

It can occur in any relationship”

Definition of a child:

A child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. In this policy ‘children’ means ‘children and young people’.

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.

Definition of Abuse:

Abuse is described as “ a violation of an individual’s human or civil rights by any other person or persons.” (Department of Health 2000)

Abuse includes:

- Physical abuse, hitting, slapping, punching, burning
- Sexual abuse, rape, indecent assault, exploitation, inappropriate touching
- Emotional abuse, belittling, name calling, institutional abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly
- Financial or material abuse, stealing, selling assets
- Neglect and acts of omission, leaving in soiled clothes, failing to feed properly
- Discriminatory abuse (including racist, sexist, based on a person’s disability and other forms of harassment}
- Trafficking, slavery (through coercion or physical control) including 'County Lines'

If you feel anybody is in immediate danger you should phone the Police 999

Managing allegations against staff or volunteers

Any allegation will be fully investigated and staff / volunteers will be supported during the process. It is important that allegations are thoroughly investigated through the Safeguarding process so that allegations can either be proved or disproved for the protection of children, vulnerable adults and staff / volunteers.

This policy is reviewed and approved by the Management Committee annually or if implemented or at any other time if legislation changes.

A copy of this document is available on the Village Hall website or if requested.

Adopted on behalf of Millbrook Village Hall Management Committee

Name: Clare Watkins

Position: Chair

Signed _____

Date 06/09/18

Reviewed & Updated 20/02/20