

THURLASTON VILLAGE HALL

CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY

1. Introduction

Thurlaston Village Hall Trustees (“the Trustees”) have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users (“vulnerable persons”) of the hall and those who may come into contact with them. Vulnerable persons could include:

- children,
- young people,
- adults with learning difficulties or physical disability,
- frail, elderly people,
- carers

Trustees should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person.

2. Principles

The welfare of a vulnerable person is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All vulnerable persons, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards them will not be permitted or tolerated.

3. Policy Statement

3.1 All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a vulnerable person will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.

3.2 All Trustees and volunteers need to be aware of child protection and vulnerable adult issues.

3.3 Any suspicions or concerns should be reported to the Chair of Thurlaston Village Hall Trustees.

3.4 The Trustees will make every effort to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable persons. The Trustees recognise that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled adults.

3.5 Any organisations or individuals hiring the hall for the purposes of holding activities, other than those arranged as private events e.g. parties by private invitation, are responsible for ensuring that all staff, assistants, volunteers etc have appropriate training and checks under the Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure Services. They should also have their own Child and Vulnerable Persons Policies.

3.6 Any organisations or individuals hiring the hall for the purposes of holding activities where Ofsted registration is required should have their registration and their own Child and Vulnerable Protection Policies. These organisations or individuals should use safe recruitment processes to appoint staff who will be working with children or vulnerable persons in any kind of activity.

3.7 The Trustees will ensure that hirers are made aware of their obligations under the Licensing Act 2003 to ensure that alcohol is not sold or provided to those under the age of 18. The Trustees will ensure that hirers are aware that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film on show. No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

3.8 These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

Further advice and support

You may wish to seek further advice or support from:

Warwickshire Safeguarding:

<https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk>

Signed: Mary Cook

Chair



Dated

10.7.2019

Review date

10 July

2020

Advice to parents and organisers of events involving children under 18 years of age.

- Be fully prepared for emergencies
- Admit by invitation or ticket only, ensure gate crashers cannot gain entry.
- Ensure there is adequate adult supervision with minimum of 2 persons at all times.
- Bring a mobile phone to summon support if you need it.
- Set clear rules and enforce them i.e. no children in kitchen, no children allowed outside building without supervision etc.
- You do not provide alcohol (watch for smuggling attempts).
- You regularly check toilets and cloakrooms.
- You enforce the no smoking ban.
- You decide in advance how you will deal with a child who is not collected at the end of the activity.
- In the interests of child protection, it is best not to leave a child alone with an adult that is not that child's parent or guardian.

This advice should be helpful in ensuring you have a successful event for all.