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**All Saints Village Hall Safeguarding Policy June 2024**

**1. Purpose**

**Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from**

**abuse or neglect.**

This policy defines how **All Saints and District Village Hall** operates to safeguard children, young people, and 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 including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors

and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and

support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

**2. Definitions**

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

policy will apply to all staff, contractors and volunteers and will be used to support their

work.

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 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 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.

**Persons affected**

 All trustees, volunteers, and staff.

 All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall

charity property.

 All visitors and contractors.

**3. Policy principles**

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults

at risk from abuse or neglect. 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.

**All Saints and District Village Hall** charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

**All Saints and District Village Hall** charity 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.

**All Saints and District Village Hall** charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm

prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

**All Saints and District Village Hall** charity is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

**All Saints and District Village Hall Committee** 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.

**4. Procedures**

A. All members of the committee will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office 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, undertake training where appropriate on safeguarding issues

including whistleblowing where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding

board/partnership or other local support organisation **and** ensure that they

understand the principles set out in this policy at 3 above.

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.

G. The named person is **Adèle Greaves Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** *‘Jane Bee Safeguarding’ Undertaken 22 February 2024.*

Contact Adèle on 07941587412 or ASVHcomms@gmail.com in case of referral.

H. 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 adults 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 or adults at risk.

I. The hall committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring

agreement. This 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 either produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and

evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and

Barring Service (DBS) when requested to do so or, confirm that they have

understood and will adhere to the hall’s principles and procedures with regard to

safeguarding.

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