

# **Marnhull Village Hall – Safeguarding Policy**

All Marnhull Village Hall trustees, staff and volunteers have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of the Hall and its premises and those who may come in contact with vulnerable users. Vulnerable users include: children, young people, adults with learning difficulties or physical difficulty, frail elderly people and carers.

They should respond to any concerns that 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. This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable people regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

## **Principles**

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

## **Policy Statement**

1. No Trustee, helper or other volunteer or staff will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless they have been through the safe recruitment procedure and introductory Child Protection or Vulnerable Adults Protection training.
2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
3. All Trustees, staff and volunteers need to be aware of this policy, child protection and vulnerable adult issues.
4. There will be a nominated and named Vulnerable Users representative to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported. That person is Mr Christopher Gassmann
5. The Trustees will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. 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.
6. Any organisations or individuals hiring the hall for the purpose of holding activities where Ofsted registration is required should show their registration and their own Child Protection Policy. Safe recruitment processes should be used to appoint staff who will be working with children or vulnerable adults in any kind of activity.
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 to those under the age of 18. The Committee will ensure that hirers are aware that no children are admitted to films when they are below the age of

classification for the film or show. No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

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

9. Hirers are required to report any damage, breakages or safety issues needing attention to the bookings secretary, who will inform the appropriate people. These will be dealt with as soon as practicable, in the light of circumstances, with provision to prevent access by children and vulnerable adults if appropriate.

10. Contractors engaged to carry out work on the premises must not be allowed unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults.

The nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult representative will have the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the appropriate authority. The representative may choose to have a confidential discussion with others in order to clear up any misunderstandings or to corroborate any suspicions before reporting to the lead agency.

The nominated person should:

Know who to contact in Social services for advice and referrals.

Know about help line and other sources of help for children and vulnerable adults.

Ensure there is an environment in which people have the opportunity to raise and child protection or vulnerable adult protection concerns.

### **Whistle Blowing Policy**

The Trustees will, under this Whistle Blowing Policy protect any individual making a referral. Should the individual making the referral feels that insufficient action/follow up has taken place they should inform the Chairperson of the Board of trustees without fear of repercussion.

Procedures for Whistle Blowing include:

Protecting those who make referrals so that there is a culture of informing without reprisal or negative consequence.

As far as possible protecting the anonymity of the whistle blower, [except where doing so could endanger another individual.

Accurate records must be kept.

Further advice and support

At any stage you may wish to seek further advice and support from the following sources:

Child Protection: NSPCC – [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) or 0116 234 7233

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline- 0808 800 5000

Criminal Records Bureau- [www.disclosure.gov.uk](http://www.disclosure.gov.uk)

Save the Children- [www.scfuk.org.uk](http://www.scfuk.org.uk)

Early Years Partnerships- based in County Council Social Services Dept

Vulnerable Adults Protection – Action on Elder Abuse- helpline 0808 808 814

