



## Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

### Principles

Barnston village hall (BVH) management committee take the welfare of the children and vulnerable adults as paramount importance and is the responsibility of everybody to look after each other.

All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, bullying, exclusion or neglect.

Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children or vulnerable adults will not be permitted or tolerated.

The BVH management committee has a duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults who utilise the hall and its facilities, and those who may come into contact with vulnerable users.

This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Individuals hiring the hall for activities involving children or vulnerable adults will be made aware of this policy.

### Definitions

#### *Definition of Abuse*

Abuse is described as “a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons” (No Secrets, Department of Health 2000).

#### *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.” (Who Decides, Lord Chancellor's Department 1997)

## Policy Statement

- All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. Any concerns should be communicated immediately to a member of BVH management committee.
- This management committee has the responsibility for reporting such concerns, as a matter of urgency, to the Local Authority Child Protection agency.
- All committee members and volunteers will be required to become aware of child protection and vulnerable adult issues and relevant Acts and Department of Health Guidelines will be held by the Management Committee as a reference material for members. Relevant training will be encouraged.
- The management committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The committee recognises that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children and those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled adults.
- The committee 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 18 years of age.
- The committee 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.
- Organisations hiring the hall for activities involving children or vulnerable adults will be asked to show their own Child Protection / Vulnerable adults policy before the first booking commences.
- Individuals hiring the hall for activities involving children or vulnerable adults will be made aware of this (BVH) policy.
- Any user hiring the hall to provide a facility for children (playgroups, football training, youth group, dance group for example), will be required to show their Child Protection / Vulnerable adults policy, and DBS disclosure certificate to the Booking Clerk, before the first booking commences.  
Any delegation of that hirer to other people, to supervise the children, is the responsibility of the hirer as the BVH management committee will not vet these delegates for disclosure.
- The only exception to the above, is when the hall is hired out for a private children's party. The management committee take no action to vet the person(s) hiring the hall for such 'one off' events.

## General Points

Barnston village hall management committee members may occasionally come into contact with children or vulnerable adults, but who are supervised by other group members.

On such occasions they do not directly supervise children or vulnerable adults as part of their function within the committee.

In these events it is always stated that children must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

Therefore the committee has decided that DBS checks on committee members is not required.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis at the AGM or when changes occur in National Legislation or Procedures.

New management committee members will be provided with an understanding of their responsibilities in line with this policy.