

Barton St David Village Hall & Playing Field Charity (BSDVH)

Safeguarding Policy

(Charity no 304475)

1. Purpose: This Policy defines how Barton St David Village Hall and Playing Field Charity 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.

Our duty of care extends to visitors and participants in all activities and events held at the village hall. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our Trustees and any volunteers. Our understanding is that safeguarding is a key governance priority for all charities and that it is part of the daily operation of the hall. The named person, responsible to the Trustees for safeguarding matters relating to children or adults at risk is Chris Calcutt. Contact details bsdvhchair@gmail.com

Our website link is: bartonstdavidparish.gov.uk

The Trustees provide the facilities (the village hall) to enable groups or individuals to hold classes or events at the hall. The Trustees do not run these themselves.

2. Definitions: Safeguarding means protecting a person's health, well-being and human rights and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. Safeguarding is a collective responsibility.

Children and young people are defined as those persons under 18 years of age.

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 provision of safe and effective care, taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Adults at risk of abuse or neglect – for the purpose of this policy the term adult at risk refers to anyone over the age of 18 years and who, according to paragraph 14.2 of the Care Act 2015:

- 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 considered an adult at risk.

Different types of abuse: abuse can take many forms and can be "hidden". Within the Children Act 1989 the types of abuse are: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.

For adults at risk the types of abuse may also include self-neglect, financial and material abuse, organisational abuse, discriminatory abuse, modern slavery and domestic abuse.

The Trustees do not have regular contact with individuals who attend groups at the hall as part of their management roles but have very strong, and mutually respected, links with the groups or individuals who hire the hall. Should a concern be raised by a person who runs a group or by a Trustee through their knowledge of a person within the village then the concern would be discussed in complete confidence with

the Designated Safeguarding Lead and escalated to the appropriate team Somerset Safeguarding Team. At no time does any Trustee advise or support someone in relation to their personal finances nor in relation to their personal care.

3. Persons affected:

- All Trustees and any volunteers
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered at the village hall or playing field
- All visitors and contractors

4. Policy principles: Barton St David Village Hall Charity has a zero- tolerance approach to abuse. There can be no excuses for not taking reasonable action to protect adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation and mistreatment. 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.

The Children Act of 1989 and 2004 provide the legislative framework for the safeguarding of children. We as a Charity are committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and responding effectively if concerns are raised. Under the Care Act 2014 we have a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk.

The Trustees of Barton St David Village Hall Charity are committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child, young person or adult 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 must play their full part. The Trustees have an overview of Safeguarding in line with their role and responsibilities managing the village hall. It is not expected that a Trustee would need to have an in depth knowledge of Safeguarding but a clear awareness of what Safeguarding means and who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is. Each Trustee has been given a copy of our Safeguarding Policy and this has been discussed with the whole committee. This is reviewed on an annual basis with the emphasis being that it applies to all members of the committee not just the Designated Lead.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has had relevant Safeguarding training and knows who to contact if a concern has arisen.
- All Trustees will have signed the Fit and Proper Person form, which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse
- All Trustees will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities within their wider remit as the Management Committee of the Village Hall.
- All Trustees will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed
- Trustees never have unsupervised access to a child nor an adult at risk. The Trustees do not visit the village hall whilst classes or groups are running unless they are attending that class or group. Neither our cleaning contractor, nor external contractors are allowed on site whilst the hall is being used. In the case of a real emergency then any class being run would cease and the hall would be emptied for any work to take place.
- The Trustees will follow all safe appointment practices. The Trustees do not appoint employees and all contractors are known to the Trustees or from a recognised local organisation.
- The Trustees will appoint a Designated Lead Safeguarding person or persons who will be the main point of contact for clubs and hirers. They will take the lead on child and adult at risk safeguarding

matters and have the responsibility of reporting concerns which arise to the relevant authority, as a matter of urgency. See above.

- All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
- The Safeguarding Lead will know who to contact, where to go for support and advice in relation to a safeguarding allegation, concern, or complaint. See above.
- An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or an adult at risk who has;
 - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed same
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk
 - Behaved towards a child/ren or adult/s at risk in such a way that indicates a risk, or harm
- The Trustees will ensure that the Conditions for Hire for the hall includes statements relating to safeguarding of children and adults at risk, which hirers must abide by.
- All hirers must sign the Conditions of Hire form. The Trustees have the right to ask hirers to produce a copy of their safeguarding policy and evidence that they have carried out Disclosure and Barring checks on employees and volunteers. The Trustees do not expect all hirers (for example bookings for family parties) to have a written safeguarding policy, but they do expect hirers to follow the safeguarding compliance guidelines in the Conditions of Hire.
- If suspected abuse is noticed or reported to any member of the committee of Trustees, then that person would immediately contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Barton St David Village Hall. The named DSL will contact either Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership OR the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board as matter of urgency.

As part of our safeguarding policy contractors are only allowed on site when there are children or adults at risk present, if they are:-

Accompanied at all times by a Trustee

The group hiring the hall has been fully informed

The contractor is at the hall because of an emergency, which is a safety issue

Children and adults at risk will be prevented from accessing the area

This Policy will be monitored and subject to an annual review

Contact details: Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership / Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board