



Stockton on the Forest Village Hall Safeguarding Policy

Stockton on the Forest Village Hall is a registered charity (no.523419), run by a management committee of volunteers. The hall is available to hire for public and private events. The management committee do not run any community events or clubs. The village hall has no direct employees.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We all have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters the village hall including children, young people and adults who are vulnerable, whether involved as visitors and/or as participants in activities and events.

Vulnerable users could include children, young people and adults who owing to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves. This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or religion. Safeguarding is to protect children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care. Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, a community or an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers, by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

All village hall users should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to financial violation or exploitation of these persons.

The village hall management committee will ensure that all users of the hall are aware that any safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the hirers.

The village hall management 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. When using the hall they must adopt suitable procedures to ensure that they fully comply with the law, good practice and common sense including sufficient and appropriate levels of supervision at all times.

Hirers need to be aware that facilities such as the toilets might be shared with other groups and appropriate supervision/arrangements should be made.

The village hall 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, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled adults.

The village hall management committee will require hirers to report any damage, breakages or safety issues needing attention to the Bookings Secretary or a member of the committee who will inform the appropriate people. Such issues will be dealt with as soon as practicable in the light of the circumstances with provision to prevent access by children and vulnerable adults pending repair where appropriate

The village hall management 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 the age of 18. The village hall management committee will ensure that hirers are aware that no children may be admitted to films or entertainment when they are below the age classification for the film or show in question. No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

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

Safeguarding and out of hours concerns:

If you are concerned about a young person, contact M.A.S.H. (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) which is the single point of contact for all concerns and advice about children. If there are immediate concerns, contact North Yorkshire Police on 999.

Contact MASH Monday – Friday, 8.30am-5pm:

Telephone 01904 551900

Email: mash@york.gov.uk

Outside office hours contact the emergency duty team:

Telephone 01609 780780

Email: edt@northyorks.gov.uk

If you have concerns regarding a vulnerable adult contact:

City of York Adult Social Care

Telephone: 01904 555111, Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm

Text telephone: 07534 437804 if you're hearing impaired

Telephone: 0300 131 2131 for out of hours help