

Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

This policy applies to all users of the Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall, including the outside spaces.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect vulnerable users of Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide trustees and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, and any vulnerable adults, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall, including the board of trustees, paid staff (should there be any), volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

All Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall Committee members, volunteers and hirers of the hall have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of the hall and its premises and those who may come into contact with vulnerable users. They should respond to any concerns 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 persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Vulnerable users include:

Children and young people: defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all trustees, 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.

Adults 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 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 an adult at risk.

Persons affected:

- All trustees, volunteers, and staff, should there be any All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall
- charity property
- All visitors and contractors

The importance of child protection is well known but it also needs to be remembered that the Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall committee owe a duty of care to all those using their premises, which means that the safety of those who cannot read warning signs, who are frail, or physically less able, need to be borne in mind.

Further information

If at any stage, you wish to seek further advice or support the links below can be of use.

- Child Protection: NSPCC – <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> or 0116 234 7223
- NSPCC Child Protection Helpline – 0808 800 5000
- Criminal Records Bureau – www.disclosure.gov.uk
- Age UK Advice Line on 0800 678 1602
- Age Concern – helpline 0800 009966

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable adults and in England.

Policy Statement

Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall believes everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all children and adults involved.

Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall recognises that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.

Actions taken by Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall will be consistent with the principles of child and adult safeguarding as appropriate, ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.

No member of the trustees, helpers or other volunteers or staff will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults.

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.

All trustees, volunteers and hirers need to be aware of this policy, child protection, and vulnerable adult issues, and will be provided with a copy of this policy.

There will be a nominated and named Vulnerable Users representative to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person is Sarah Presswood until (annually reviewed at AGM).

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

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

This policy has been agreed by all trustees of the Cotes and Standon Community Centre Village Hall

Review

This policy will be reviewed every year

Date.....

Signature (Chair).....

Signature (Secretary).....