



Milford Village Hall

Portsmouth Road Milford GU8 5DS

Managed by Milford Village Hall Management Committee
on behalf of the Milford Village Hall Fund

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The policy and procedures set out in this document define how Milford Village Hall Management Committee (MVHMC) operates to safeguard and protect adults at risk, children and young people from abuse or neglect.

1. Purpose

Our purpose is to fulfil our duty of care to everyone who enters our premises including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff, where applicable.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all staff, contractors and volunteers and will be used to support their work.

Adults at risk and or Vulnerable are defined as someone over 18 years old who, according to paragraph 14.2 of the Care Act 2014 updated 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

3. Persons Affected

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

4. Policy Principles

The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

MVHMC has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.



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All reasonable action should be taken to protect everyone from risk. This includes all those known to be vulnerable, children, young people and 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.

Milford Village Hall recognises that under the Care Act 2014 updated 2015 it has a duty of care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

MVHMC, on behalf of the trustees, are aware and can access their local safeguarding Board (Surrey County Council) and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of all adults, children, young adults, and other vulnerable individuals.

MVHMC are committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk 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 should play their full part; and
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Milford Village Hall trustees delegate the day to day management of safeguarding to the MVHMC.

5. Procedures

- a. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training on safeguarding issues where possible, offered by their local safeguarding board or other local support organisations and ensure that they understand the principles set out in policy principals above.
- b. All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- c. A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency. The designated safeguarding lead for Milford Village Hall is Liz Simmons and can be contacted by email on chair.milfordvillagehall@outlook.com.




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- d. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation of concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adult at risk who has:
- behaved in a way that has, or may have, harmed a child, young person or adult at risk (this point refers to physical harm);
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, young person or adult at risk; or
 - behaved towards a child, young person or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk (this point refers to emotional harm).
- e. The nominated committee member(s) concerned with the hiring of Milford Village Hall 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 produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Policy adopted:	30 September 2024
Policy review date:	30 September 2025
Signed: 	Dated: 30.09.24
Role:	Chair of Milford Village Hall Management Committee