

Bishops Frome Village Centre Child and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

This statement of policy and procedures applies to users of, and activities in, Bishops Frome Village Centre (BFVC) and any ancillary activities which are the responsibility of the Village Centre Management Committee.

This policy is in place to protect all children and vulnerable adults regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith. The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. All people associated with the Village Centre and its use have a responsibility for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

The Management Committee endeavours to keep the premises safe for all users. No member of the Management Committee, outside contractors, hirers or volunteers will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless in possession of appropriate clearance such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The Management Committee will ensure that all hirers/users of the Hall are aware that any safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the hirers.

The 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 and 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.

Acceptance of the Village Centre's safeguarding policy is part of the agreed contract taken out on hiring the Hall. A copy of this policy is available on the Village Centre website and will be displayed for the attention of all on the Hall notice board. The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Any concerns regarding the safeguarding of any vulnerable person or group should be raised either verbally or in writing to Jeanie Falconer, the nominated safeguarding officer. Her telephone contact number is 07886 700976. Concerns can also be emailed to Jeanie using the email address bishfromecentre@aol.com

Adopted: 17th March 2025

Next Review: March 2027

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULTS SAFEGUARDING POLICY PART 2

BFVC Management Committee abides by the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of vulnerable people is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- All people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation has a right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

Purpose:

Bishops Frome Village Centre will:

- Do all it can to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who use or are connected with Bishops Frome Village Centre from harm.
- Provide Trustees and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child and vulnerable people protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of BFVC, including trustees, paid staff, volunteers and contractors. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may result in exclusion from the organisation.

Definitions:

The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

Adult at Risk:

- An adult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Child and Adult Abuse: Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Child sexual exploitation

- Child Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

BFVC have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people as well as vulnerable adults.

Training and Awareness:

BFVC Management Committee will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its trustees, users, volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. contractors). This requires them as a minimum to have awareness training that enables them to:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding young and vulnerable people.
- Recognise anyone potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
- Understand dignity and respect when working with children.
- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Policy.

Similarly, trustees and volunteers may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of an adult at risk of abuse and need to know what action to take

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

BFVC expects all trustees and volunteers to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a vulnerable person is deemed to be at risk of harm or **contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed.**

Social Media:

Use of Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology:

All trustees and volunteers should be aware of the use of mobile phones and any digital technology and understand that it is unlawful to photograph children and vulnerable adults without their explicit consent or the consent of the person with parental responsibilities.

Whistleblowing:

It is important that people connected with BFVC have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong-doing. This includes concerns about another trustee or volunteer.