

HUTTON RUDBY VILLAGE HALL SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Date Policy Agreed: June 2025

Date due for revision: June 2027

Hutton Rudby Village Hall

Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Statement

1.1 The Trustees of Hutton Rudby Village Hall recognise that they have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters the premises including children, young people, adults with care and support needs, visitors and/or participants in all activities and events.

1.2 The Trustees also recognise their duty to safeguard and support trustees, volunteers, and employed staff and contractors.

1.3 This Policy aims to:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and welfare of all hall users
- Provide assurance that all user organisations take reasonable steps to manage safeguarding risks
- Ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities with regard to safeguarding both children and adults
- Ensure that appropriate action is taken in response to any allegations of abuse or neglect

1.4 This Policy applies to the Trustees, employees, contractors, volunteers, leaders and participants of all user groups of Hutton Rudby Village Hall.

2. Principles

2.1 Hutton Rudby Village Hall operates a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse and neglect.

2.2 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each individual and organisation should play their full part.

2.3 Legislative protection exists to ensure the safeguarding of those who are typically considered to be 'vulnerable' or 'at risk.' Specifically this relates to:

- Children under the age of 18 years. (Children Acts, 1989 and 2004)
- Adults with 'care and support needs' who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect and, as a result of their care and support needs, are unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. (Care Act, 2014)

2.4 The legislation requires that all adults, children and young people regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.*

2.5 All Trustees, employees, contractors, volunteers and users of Hutton Rudby Village Hall are required to act in accordance with current legislation and accompanying national guidance.

2.6 Village Hall Trustees, employees, volunteers and user organisations are required to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety and welfare of all hall users by:

- Providing a safe physical environment
- Appointing a designated safeguarding lead who will attend relevant training
- Challenging any unacceptable behaviour
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse
- Having a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know

2.7 The Operations Team will ensure that all hirers of the hall have accepted a hiring agreement.

2.8 The hiring agreement will require all user groups who wish to use the hall or the facilities of the hall for the provision of activities for children (where parents/carers are not present) or adults with care and support needs, 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

2.9 This does not apply where the hire is for private events arranged for invited friends and family.

3. Actions to take if abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected

3.1 Concerns should be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead from the Trustees or relevant user group.

3.2 Any concerns about the immediate safety of a child must be reported to North Yorkshire Police via 999.

3.3 If a safeguarding referral is required, the procedure on the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website must be followed:

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk ('Worried About a Child?')

3.4 As much information as possible should be included as part of the referral in order for the North Yorkshire Multi-Agency Screening Team to make an informed decision regarding any action necessary to secure the safety and welfare of a child.

3.5 It is good practice to be as open and honest as possible with parents/carers about any concerns or referrals you have made. However, concerns should not be shared with parents/carers in the following circumstances:

- when it is believed that by doing so, the risk to the child or young person may be increased.
- When there are concerns about sexual abuse from a known individual and it is believed that this individual may seek to silence the child.

4. Actions to take if abuse or neglect of an adult is known or suspected

4.1 If you or the person you are concerned about is in danger and immediate action is required, you should ring the emergency services on 999.

4.2 If you or the person you are concerned about is not in immediate danger, you should ring the North Yorkshire Council (NYC) customer service centre on **0300 131 2 131**. This includes outside of office hours.

4.3 New online forms have been launched to make it easier to request involvement from adult social care. These forms and additional information can be found at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/adult-care/safeguarding/safeguarding-adults

5. Managing allegations

5.1 An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults who has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may harm a child or an adult with care and support needs
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult with care and support needs
- Behaved towards a child (or children) or adult with care and support needs in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults

5.2 Any suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult must be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.

5.3 Allegations in relation to children should be reported promptly in line with guidance from the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership:

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/procedures-practice-guidance-and-one-minute-guides/managing-allegations-against-those-who-work-or-volunteer-with-children-2/

5.4 Allegations in relation to adults should be reported promptly in line with guidance from the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board: www.safeguardingadults.co.uk/working-with-adults/nysab-procedures/pipot/pipot-policy/

6. Frequency of Policy Review

6.1 The Operations Team and the Trustees will review this policy every two years, or in the event of new legislation or national guidance.

***Appendix**

1. Abuse and Neglect of Children and Young People: definitions

‘Child/Young Person’: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.

‘Abuse’: abuse is any form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

‘Physical Abuse’: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

‘Emotional Abuse’ - the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

‘Sexual Abuse’ - sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities including any which may not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

‘Child Sexual Exploitation’: this is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

‘Neglect’: this is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional need.

‘Extremism’: Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable – including the young – by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society. Extremism is defined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 as the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.

Definitions taken from:

HM Govt (2023) ‘Working together to safeguard children: A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children’

2. Abuse and Neglect of Adults: definitions

Under the Care Act 2014, safeguarding duties apply to an adult who is aged 18 or over and:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

An adult at risk may therefore be a person who, for example:

- is an older person who is frail due to ill health physical disability or cognitive impairment
- has a learning disability, has a physical disability and/or a sensory impairment
- has mental health needs including dementia or a personality disorder
- has a long-term illness/condition
- misuses substances or alcohol
- is a carer such as a family member/friend who provides personal assistance and care to adults and is subject to abuse
- lacks the mental capacity to make particular decisions and is in need of care and support.

This list is not exhaustive.

Types of adult abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
- Neglect
- Self-Neglect
- Organisational Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Discriminatory Abuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage

Further information on types and indicators of abuse can be found at:

<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/types-and-indicators-of-abuse>