

Swalcliffe Village Charity Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy defines how Swalcliffe Village Charity operates to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect. The Charity has a duty of care and is committed to the protection and safety of everyone but especially children, young people and adults at risk. The Charity also has a duty to safeguard and support trustees and volunteers.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 **Children and young people** are 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.
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Adult 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 Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:

- 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 and volunteers.
- all those attending any activity or event that is being delivered from the Charity or its property.
- all visitors and contractors.

3. Policy principles

- 3.1 There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. 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.
- 3.2 The Charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and recognises that under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the 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.
- 3.3 The Charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- 3.4 The Charity will work with local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations should this become necessary. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

3,5 The Charity is 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.

4. Procedures

- 4.1 All trustees and volunteers of the Charity will declare that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
- 4.2 All trustees and volunteers will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training where appropriate on safeguarding issues including whistleblowing where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding board/partnership or other local support organisation and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at 3 above.
- 4.3 All trustees and volunteers will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- 4.4 All trustees and volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- 4.5 All trustees and volunteers, specifically in relation to the management of Swalcliffe Village Hall and hosting of any events will follow safe recruitment practices.
- 4.6 Trustee will take collective responsibility for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters and may at their discretion appoint one or more safeguarding leads subject to the level of risks faced.
- 4.7 Suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. Should a safeguarding situation arise, the Charity will appoint one or more trustees to seek support and advice in relation to any allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:
- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or
 - Behaved towards a child (or children) or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.
- 4.8 In relation to Swalcliffe Village Hall, the Charity 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 Charity's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.