

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Sixpenny Handley Village Hall.

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children and young people who receive Sixpenny Handley Village Hall services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.
- To outline that Sixpenny Handley Village Hall requires all regular groups working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults to have their own Safeguarding Policies and designated Safeguarding Officer.

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

Legal Guidance Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998 and General Data Protection Regulation GDPR (to apply from 25 May 2018)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Prevent Duty Guidance 2015
- Adoption & Children Act 2002
- Female Mutilation Act 2003
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
- Equality Act 2010
- Working together to safeguarding children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015(*Currently under consultation*)
- Children and Social Work Act (April) 2017

This policy should be read alongside our policies & procedures on:

- Recruitment, induction, and training
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy
- Health and safety

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- some children 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.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people
- adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training, and quality assurance measures
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, one-to-one discussions
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families, and carers appropriately.
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

Contact Details

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Name Gitta Cooper / Paul Styles

Phone/email Tel 01725 552369 Gitta.cooper@btinternet.com
 Tel 01725 552544 paulstyles@btinternet.com

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Contact MASH as a single point of contact for reporting concerns.

Dorset Police: email MASH@dorset.pnn.polic.uk or phone: 101

Dorset County Council: MASH@dorsetcc.gcsx.gov.uk or phone
01202 228866

Dorset Safeguarding Children Board

www.dorsetlscb.co.uk email :dorsetlscb@dorsetcc.gov.uk or
phone 01305 221196

CEOP - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

www.ceop.police.uk

NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000

CHILDLINE Helpline

0800 1111

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice every 2 years.

This policy was last reviewed on: 12/06/23.

Policy to next be reviewed in: May 2025.

Signed: *Paul Styles* - Chairman