

# **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY**

## **for**

### **Medstead Village Hall Management Committee**

#### **1 Introduction**

1 Medstead Village Hall Management Committee is a not-for-profit organisation run by: The Trustees of Medstead Village Hall.

2 Medstead Village Hall Management Committee is based at:  
Medstead Village Hall, Roe Downs Road, Medstead. Nr Alton. GU34 5LG.

3 Medstead Village Hall Management Committee is managed by a board of trustees (the trustees). One of the trustees has particular responsibility for safeguarding children.

4 The trustees have adopted this safeguarding children policy and expects every adult working or helping at Medstead Village Hall Management Committee to support it and comply with it. Consequently this policy shall apply to all staff, managers, trustees, directors, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of Medstead Village Hall Management Committee.

#### **2. Purpose of the Policy**

1 This policy is intended to protect children and young people who receive any service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us.

2 As an organisation we believe that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

#### **3 The risks to children.**

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children need protection including:

Sexual abuse.

Grooming.

Physical and emotional abuse and neglect.

Domestic violence.

Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers.

Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and

aggression within our schools and campuses.

Victimisation.

Self-harm.

Unsafe environments and activities.

Crime.

Exploitation.

#### **4 Universality of Protection**

The Trustees of the Village Hall recognise that:

The welfare of the child is paramount.

All children regardless of race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from harm.

Some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency.

Working with children, young people, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

## **5 Safeguarding children at events / activities**

**1** There are three kinds of events/activities:

1.1 those open to adults and children of all ages,

1.2 those for children accompanied by a 'parent or guardian',

1.3 those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other events/activities.

**2** At events and activities open to all ages, children under 16 must be accompanied throughout by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child but also takes the child home again afterwards. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

**3** At events and activities for children accompanied by a 'parent', children under 16 must be supervised throughout the event by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child to the event but also takes the child home again afterwards. If a lone adult brings more than one child, then the children will have to stay together, so that the one adult can supervise them. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

**4** At events and activities for unaccompanied children, children under the age of 16 must be enrolled by a responsible adult before being left with the event leader. The enrolment must record the child's name, age and address and the names and addresses of the child's parents, plus the parents' mobile telephone numbers. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

**5** Both event and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasions where Medstead Village Hall Management Committee will be providing a service.

## **6 Disclosure and barring.**

**1** Medstead Village Hall Management Committee offers the following venue for children:

The Village Hall provides a venue for use by Playgroups, Scouts, Cubs, and other youth organisations to meet in and participate in educational activities, dances, children's parties & film presentations.

**2** Some of the activities may therefore require adult participants or adult leaders to undergo DBS and/or police checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The required level of checking (if any) will broadly reflect the degree and frequency of unsupervised access given to other people's children.

**3** The Trustees will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of Medstead Village Hall Management Committee. A member of Medstead Village Hall Management Committee who discovers anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the following:

**Angie Chance (Village Hall Trustee)**

**4** The trustees will review any allegation and the likely risk to children and, if appropriate, will consider banning the member from future events or revoking his or her membership or both, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of Medstead Village Hall Management Committee.

## **7 Health and safety aspects of safeguarding children**

**1** Sufficient adults must be present at any event for unaccompanied children to enable one adult to deal with any emergency while another adult supervises the children not directly affected by the emergency.

**2** In all relevant circumstances the rules attached in Appendix A will be applied.

## **8 Policy on the prevention of bullying**

We will not tolerate the bullying of children either by adults or by other children. If any incident of child-on-child bullying should arise at a Medstead Village Hall Management Committee event, those involved will be separated immediately and the parents of the children involved will be asked to deal with the matter. The Trustees will review all incidents of child-on-child bullying and assess the likely future risk to children.

If appropriate, the Trustee's will consider banning a child from future events, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of Medstead Village Hall Management Committee. Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with under paragraph 6.3 above.

## **9 Photographing children**

People using the village hall must expect to have their photograph taken at many of the events and we reserve the right to publish suitable photographs of those attending, along with the names of members involved.

## **10 Managing behaviour, discipline and acceptable restraint**

1 Adults supervising children at Medstead Village Hall events must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is absolutely necessary to prevent injury to any person or to prevent serious damage to property, then the minimum necessary restraint may be used — but for that purpose only.

2 Unacceptable behaviour at Medstead Village Hall events for unaccompanied children will generally be stopped by separating the children from each other and from the group. The miscreants will be suitably supervised and will be returned as soon as possible to the care of their parents.

3 The organiser of the event may apply a further disciplinary sanction; namely the banning of the child from one or more future events over the following 18 months.

4 A parent who is aggrieved by this ban may appeal to the organiser of the event or the Trustees who will hear the views of all relevant persons. The decision of Medstead Village Hall Management Committee is then final.

## **11 Legal Framework**

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following:

United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991

General Data Protection Regulation

Human Rights Act 1998

Children Act 1989 & 2004

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Children and Families Act 2014

Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice - Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from 1 September 2014

Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services

Working together to safeguard children (2017)

## **Appendix A**

**No Child shall be allowed in the Village Hall or Car Park without a parent/guardian or an authorised adult supervising their activity.**

NOTE: This Policy was approved by the following officer on 13/01/2020 and is due for review every 2 years:  
Chairman of Medstead Village Hall Management Committee

