**Stour Row Village Hall Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy**

**Policy Statement**

The welfare of child and vulnerable adults is paramount. All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse. We will give equal priority to keeping all children and young people safe regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

 No member of the trustees Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) or volunteers should have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults (outside their family group) unless appropriately vetted.

**Implementation**

All members of the trustees, VHMC and other volunteers will be made aware of this policy and the relevant vetting procedures. Should checks become necessary, they will be undertaken in compliance with the Protection of Children Act 1999, the Children Act 1989 and Part V of the Police Act 1997 and any amendment thereof. Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) certificates will be stored as recommended 2018 Governments document on Handling of DBS certificate information (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-of-dbs-certificate-information/handling-of-dbs-certificate-information>) and complying with relevant GDPR legislation.

 All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. Please bring any concerns to the attention of any member of the VHMC.

The Chairman of the VHMC will be responsible for Protection Matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the appropriate authorities such as Dorset Children's Advice and Duty Service (Westport House, Worgret Road Wareham BH20 4PP, Phone 01305228866). Contact details for the Chairman can be found on the Stour Row Community website (<https://stourrowvillage.org/>)

 All trustees, VHMC members other volunteers will be required to become aware of issues around the protection of children and vulnerable adults. A document that provides useful background as well as links to relevant legislation and guidance in this area can be found at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/779401/Working\_Together\_to\_Safeguard-Children.pdf

**The Stour Row Village Hall policies and procedures will be regularly reviewed.**

 The Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy will be regularly reviewed. All new trustees, members of the VHMC and volunteers should have an understanding of their responsibilities in matters of child protection.

All hirers who wish to use the hall for activities which include children and vulnerable adults, other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family only, will be asked to produce a copy of their child/vulnerable adult protection policies. A copy of this document will be displayed for the attention of all.

Useful Information

Phone number for NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000.

Phone number for Childline 0800 1111

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/14/pdfs/ukpga_19990014_en.pdf>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/50/part/V>

https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/lords/2000/jul/18/part-v-of-the-police-act-1997-further

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/474742/Code\_of\_Practice\_for\_Disclosure\_and\_Barring\_Service\_Nov\_15.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-of-dbs-certificate-information/handling-of-dbs-certificate-information

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