

SKELSMERGH COMMUNITY HALL – DRAFT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Skelsmergh Community Hall operates to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

This policy applies to everyone involved with the Community Hall: committee members, employees, contractors, hall users and volunteers.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all staff, 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
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- 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

3. Policy principles

Skelsmergh Community Hall charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Skelsmergh Community Hall charity 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.

Skelsmergh Community Hall Committee 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

- A. All members of the committee will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for trustees which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
- B.
- C. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training where appropriate on safeguarding issues.
- D. All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- E. All members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- F. The hall committee will follow safe recruitment practices.
- G. A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for

reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.

- H. The named person is **Mary Chapman** Management Committee Chairwoman
- I. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint.
- J. All hirers who wish to use the hall for activities which include children and adults at risk, other than for hire for private parties and weddings 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 hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.
- K. The Community Hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy at every AGM.

Reviewed October 2022