

BRUSHFORD PARISH HALL

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1176214

Safeguarding and Vulnerable Beneficiaries Policy

The Objects of Brushford Parish Hall CIO are to establish and run a village hall and to promote activities for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Brushford and surrounding area.

(Articles of Association, 2017)

Abuse is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority. This can be caused by those inflicting harm or those who fail to act to prevent harm.

Brushford Parish Hall makes a positive contribution to a strong and safe community and recognises the right of every individual to stay safe. The inhabitants of the parish include children and other people who might be regarded as vulnerable.

A child is under the age of 18 (as defined in the United Nations convention on the Rights of a Child).

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited.

This may include a person who:

- Is elderly and frail
- Has a mental illness including dementia
- Has a physical or sensory disability
- Has a learning disability
- Has a severe physical illness
- Is a substance misuser
- Is homeless

Brushford Parish Hall does not normally come into direct contact with children and / or vulnerable adults through its hiring of the Hall or its fundraising activities but it aims to respond to concerns appropriately and therefore has established a framework to support its volunteers and clarify the organisation's expectations.

The Terms and Conditions of hiring §16 Compliance with The Children Act therefore state:
"THE HIRER shall ensure that any activities for children under eighteen years of age comply with the provisions of The Children Act of 1989 and that only fit and proper persons who have passed the appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service checks have access to children (checks may also apply when dealing with vulnerable adults who are taking part in activities). THE HIRER shall provide the Hall committee with a copy of their Child Protection Policy."

In addition, any unsupervised user hiring the hall to provide a facility for Children [playgroups, football training, youth clubs for example] will be required to show his/her DBS disclosure certificate to the Booking Manager and the disclosure number will be recorded. Any delegation of that hirer to other people to supervise the children is the responsibility of the hirer and the Committee will not vet these delegates for DBS disclosure.

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All volunteers have a responsibility to follow the guidance laid out in this policy and related policies, and to pass on any welfare concerns using the required procedures. We expect them to promote good practice by being an excellent role model, contribute to discussions about safeguarding and to positively involve people in developing safe practices.

Brushford Parish Hall recognises its duty to report concerns or allegations against its volunteers within the organisation or against hirers. Concerns or allegations should be raised following the steps outlined in the Complaints Policy.

Brushford Parish Hall recognises its duty to report any concerns about unsafe practice by any of its volunteers or by its hirers to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

All volunteers must be aware that they have a duty to share information with relevant organisations in order to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. The public interest in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults may override confidentiality interests. However, information will be shared on a need to know basis only, as judged by the Safeguarding Officer in discussion with at least one of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

POLICY APPROVED BY THE BRUSHFORD PARISH HALL TRUSTEES ON 24th November 2015

Reviewed and approved 17th February 2022

Date for next review: 16th February 2023