

**BELSTEAD VILLAGE HALL CHARITY
TRUST
CHARITY NUMBER 272206**

Safeguarding Policy

September 2025

CONTENTS

1. Purpose Of Policy	Page 2
2. Definitions Contained within Policy	Page 2
3. Relevant Legislation	Page 3
4. Policy Principles	Page 3
5. Policy Procedures	Pages 3-4

1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of the policy is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Belstead Village Hall Charity Trust operates to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

This policy will apply to all trustees, any non-trustee committee members, volunteers, contractors employed to undertake any work within the hall or its grounds and anyone attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall property.

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, committee members and volunteers.

2. DEFINITIONS

Children and young people

Are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old.

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 who is over 18.

Safeguarding adults at risk is defined for the purpose of the policy as:

- Protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect
- People and organisations working together to prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- Making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action
- Recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being

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. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

There are many important pieces of legislation that promote and safeguard children and adults at risk. The Care Act 2014 sets out the processes and definitions and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 provides the framework for The Vetting and Barring Scheme and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. The Children Act 1989 and 2004 is also key but there are many other important pieces of legislation.

4. POLICY PRINCIPLES

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness.

Belstead Village Hall Charity Trust has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Belstead Village Hall Charity Trust 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.

Belstead Village Hall Charity Trust is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

This policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

Belstead Village Hall Charity Trust 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.

5. POLICY PROCEDURES

All members of the Belstead Hall Charity Trust committee have signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office for trustees which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.

All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.

All members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.

All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at 4 above.

All members of the committee are aware that there is guidance and support material available on The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership website (www.suffolksp.org.uk) and also via The Charity Commission detailed guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

The committee will follow safe recruitment practices when using outside contractors/resource.

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 discussing any concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, with the relevant safeguarding agency. In the first instance this will be The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (www.suffolksp.org.uk).

The named person is ken Stowe until further notice.

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. Any member of the committee who is concerned will liaise with the appointed person. It is not the committee's or appointed person's responsibility to deal with any suspected abuse but it is their responsibility to voice any concerns.

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. In the first instance The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (www.suffolksp.org.uk) will be contacted by the appointed person to discuss the concerns. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or
- Behaved towards a child (or children) or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.

The committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring agreement and have access to the terms and conditions for hiring the hall. The terms and conditions state that all hirers who wish to use the hall for activities which include children and adults at risk, other than for hire for private parties 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 if the hirer does not have their own safeguarding policy, that they are bound by the hall's safeguarding policy.

Safeguarding is a risk that is included in the risk assessment templates for the hall that are reviewed annually by the committee.

The committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

SIGNED:

DATE:

P KEEN (Chairman)