

## ENMORE MEMORIAL HALL

### **Safeguarding Policy** (Reviewed September 2024)

#### **1. Purpose**

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

This policy defines how ENMORE MEMORIAL 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.

#### **2. Definitions of persons affected**

**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.

#### **Persons affected**

- All trustees, volunteers, and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property.
- All visitors and contractors.

### **3. Types of abuse – clarification and signs.**

The [Care and support statutory guidance](#) identifies ten types of abuse, which include:

- **Physical abuse** such as assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint, inappropriate physical sanctions.  
**Signs** of physical abuse may include: Injuries inconsistent with the person's lifestyle; Bruising, cuts, welts, burns and/or marks on the body; frequent injuries; unexplained falls; subdued or changed behaviour in the presence of a particular person; signs of malnutrition; failure to seek medical treatment or frequent changes of GP; no explanation for injuries or inconsistency with the account of what happened.
- **Domestic violence or abuse** such as psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, so called 'honour' based violence.  
**Signs** of domestic abuse may include: Low self-esteem; Feeling that the abuse is their fault when it is not; Physical evidence of violence such as bruising, cuts, broken bones; Verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others; Fear of outside intervention; Isolation – not seeing friends and family; Limited access to money
- **Sexual abuse** such as rape, sexual assault, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, sexual acts to which the person has not consented or was pressured into consenting.  
**Signs** of sexual abuse may include: Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms; Infections or sexually transmitted diseases; uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual

language or significant changes in sexual behaviour or attitude; Self-harming; Poor concentration, withdrawal and/or sleep disturbance; Excessive fear/apprehension of, or withdrawal from, relationships; aggression.

- **Psychological or emotional abuse** such as threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation, unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks. **Signs** of Psychological or emotional abuse may include: Atmosphere of silence when a particular person is present; Withdrawal or change in the psychological state of the person; Insomnia; Low self-esteem; Uncooperative and aggressive behaviour; Signs of distress, tearfulness, anger.

#### **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.

ENMORE MEMORIAL HALL charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

ENMORE MEMORIAL 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.

ENMORE MEMORIAL HALL charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

ENMORE MEMORIAL HALL charity is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

ENMORE MEMORIAL 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.

## 5. 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. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training where appropriate on safeguarding issues including whistleblowing where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding board/partnership or other local support organisation and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at 3 above.

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

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

E. The hall committee will follow safe recruitment practices.

F. 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.

G. The named person is **Michael Ingram** until August 2025.

H. 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. 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.
- 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.

I. The hall committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring agreement. This will require 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, confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.

## **6. Reporting Incidents**

The nominated Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding & Protection lead will be made known to all users of ENMORE MEMORIAL HALL and will have responsibility for reporting concerns as a matter of urgency to the Local Authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency.

The nominated lead will:

- Know who to contact at the local authority
- Know who to contact in social services for advice and referrals
- Know about help lines and other sources of help for children and vulnerable people
- Ensure there is an environment in which staff and volunteers have the opportunity to raise any child protection or vulnerable person protection concerns.

**The village hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.**

## **FURTHER HELP AND ADVICE:**

**In an emergency, call 999 for Police, Fire and Ambulance services**

**OR**

**101 for non-emergencies**

1. Somerset Council

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/contact-us/>

To report a child or an adult at risk, including at weekends and public holidays, please call 0300 123 2224.

See also <https://somensetsafeguardingadults.org.uk/> 0300 123 2224

<https://somensetsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/> 0300 123 2224

<https://somensetdomesticabuse.org.uk/> 0800 69 49 999

2. NSPCC

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

National helpline – Childline 0800 1111 offering free, confidential advice and support whatever your worry, whenever you need help.

3. The Children's Society

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/young-people/advice>

The Children's Society online advice hub aims to answer any questions a child may have about problems in their life and provide the right information to get help when they need it.