**Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall**

**Safeguarding Policy**

Introduction

Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall is a community organisation with charitable status. It is managed by a Board of Trustees and run by a voluntary management committee, with the aid of additional volunteers.

As Trustees and Committee members we have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of the Hall and its premises and those who may meet vulnerable users. Vulnerable users could include children, young people, adults with learning difficulties or physical disability, frail, elderly people, and carers.

We as a Trustees and a Committee hiring out a facility to a third party and who directly organise community focussed events should respond to any concerns we may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person.

This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion, or faith.

Policy Statement

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children or vulnerable adults will not be permitted or tolerated.

Procedures

1. All trustees and volunteers will be given information about child protection and will be encouraged to attend appropriate Child Protection and Protection of Vulnerable Adults training where possible.

2. The nominated Safeguarding representative will, in consultation, with a named Trustee have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency.

3. An annual review will take place following the AGM to allow for any required up-date of policies and or procedures. New Trustees and volunteers must be given an induction to this policy and understand their responsibilities.

4. A copy of the policy will be displayed for the attention of all, on the Village Hall website and be made available on request to hirers.

5. The Hirer will take responsibility for ensuring that a risk assessment includes proper and detailed consideration of the activity/club/group etc involving children and vulnerable adults before the first booking commences.

7. If the premises might be used by more than one hirer, the attention of hirers will be drawn to the need to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are supervised when using toilets.

8. Should a hiring agreement include licensable activities then appropriate MAVH officers and Trustees will ensure these provisions are observed.

9. Contractors engaged to carry out work at the premises must not be allowed unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. Appropriate supervision will be arranged if necessary.

Policy adopted: 11th March 2024