

LLANGROVE VILLAGE HALL CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Updated June 2025

(This safeguarding policy has been written in line with ACRE publications Safeguarding Information Sheet 5 April 2021)

1. Purpose

This policy defines how Llangrove Village 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

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

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. 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

4. Policy Principles

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

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.

Llangrove Village Hall charity

- Has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse
- 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
- Is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised
- 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

Llangrove Village 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
- 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 Safeguarding sheet to show they are familiar 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
- b. All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed
- c. All members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted
- d. Any photographs or recordings of children/vulnerable adults should only be taken with the person's consent and parents'/carers' permission
- e. The hall committee will follow safe recruitment practices

f. A member of the committee is appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person has responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency

g. 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

h. 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. No member of the Trustees, outside contractors, hirers or volunteers will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless in possession of appropriate clearance such as DBS.

i. The Management Committee will ensure that hirers are made aware of their obligations under the Licensing Act 2003 to ensure that alcohol is not sold to those under the age of 18 and that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film or show. No gambling or entertainment of a sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises

j. The Hall Committee will ensure that all hirers/users of the Hall are aware that any safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the hirers

k. Acceptance of the Village Hall safeguarding policy is part of the agreed contract taken out on hiring the hall.

The following member of the Llangrove Village Hall Committee is appointed responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters

Wendy Price 01989 770450 / 07596 897 962

This person has responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.

A copy of this policy is available on the Village Hall website and will be displayed for the attention of all on the Hall noticeboard. This policy will be reviewed annually

Contact Details

LVH Safeguarding Officer - Wendy Price

01989 770450
07596 897 962

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children

MASH – (Multiagency Safeguarding Hub)

Herefordshire Council website

Out of hours

01432 260800

01905 768020

Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults

Complete HSAB Concern Form online

Tel. Mon-Fri 9-5

Email Safeguarding@herefordshire.gov.uk

Email police contactus@westmercia.police.uk

01432 260101

NSPCC Helpline

Email help@nspcc.org.uk

0808 800 5000

Childline

0800 1111

Date Reviewed May 2025

Date of Next Review June 2026

Llangrove Village Hall Management Committee