

Safeguarding policy

POLICY REVIEW	
Signed	<i>(having been approved by the council)</i>
Minute reference	15/21/22 APR
Date ratified	19 th April 2021
Date of next review	19 th April 2022

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This policy defines how Theale Parish Council and The John Cumber Hall operate to safeguard and promote the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.
- 1.2 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 or participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our volunteers and staff.

2 Definitions

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:
 - a protecting children from maltreatment
 - b preventing impairment of children's health and development
 - c ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and
 - d taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- 2.3 An adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to paragraph 14.2 of the Care Act 2015:
 - a has care and support needs
 - b is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and
 - c 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.
- 2.4 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

3.1 Persons affected by this policy include:

- a all volunteers and staff
- b all those attending any activity or service organised by Theale Parish Council or John Cumber Hall and
- c all visitors and contractors.

4 Principles

- 4.1 There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, and mistreatment. 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.
- 4.2 Theale Parish Council and The John Cumber Hall have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
- 4.3 Theale Parish Council and The John Cumber Hall recognise that under the Care Act 2014, they has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. They also recognise its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.
- 4.4 Theale Parish Council and The John Cumber Hall are committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- 4.5 Theale Parish Council and The John Cumber Hall are 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 adults vulnerable from abuse. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.
- 4.6 Theale Parish Council and The John Cumber Hall are committed to the following principles:
 - a The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount
 - b All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse
 - c Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
 - d 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

- 5.1 All members of the council will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities.
- 5.2 All members of the council will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.

5.3 No members of the council, helpers or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.

5.4 A member of the council and an employee of the council will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. These persons will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.

Those persons are **Jan Richardson (chairman)** and **Paul Manley (clerk)**.

5.5 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 adult at risk who has:

- a behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk
- b possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or adult at risk or
- c behaved towards a child or children or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

5.6 The council 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 produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).