



Hale Community Centre

Safeguarding Policy

1. PURPOSE

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

This policy defines how Hale Community Centre 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, employees, consultants, contractors and volunteers.

2. DEFINITION

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. 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.

2) **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;
- because of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

- 3) 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, employees, consultants, contractors, and volunteers;
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the Community Centre's property;
- All visitors and/or contractors undertaking work at the Community Centre.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children, young people 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.

1) Hale Community Centre:

- 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 for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.
- 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, young people 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.

2) Hale Community Centre's Board of Trustees, employees, consultants, contractors and/or volunteers are 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.

4. PROCEDURES

- 1) All members of the Board of Trustees, employees, consultants, contractors, and volunteers will:-
 - a) comply with the charity's governing document and the law in declaring that they have no convictions in relation to abuse;
 - b) 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) work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed;
 - d) not have unsupervised access to children, young people or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted
- 2) The Hale Community Centre's Board of Trustees will follow safe recruitment practices.
- 3) The Board of Trustees has delegated to the Chairperson, the responsibility for implementing and monitoring safeguarding at Hale Community Centre. The Chairperson is responsible for ensuring that this Safeguarding Policy is adhered to and has responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.
- 4) The Centre Manager as the appointed person, responsible for the effective operational implementation of procedures and systems within the Community Centre 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.
- 5) All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child, young person or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
- 6) An allegation may relate to a person who works with children, young people or adults at risk who has:
 - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, young person or adult at risk or may have harmed a child, young person or adult at risk;
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child, young person or adult at risk; or

- Behaved towards a child (or children), young person or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children, young people or adults at risk.
- 8) The Centre Manager will ensure that all hirers of the Hale Community Centre have agreed the Booking Terms & Conditions of Hire. This will require all hirers who wish to use the Community Centre for activities which include children, young people 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 Community Centre's principles and procedures with regard to Safeguarding.
 - 9) The Centre Manager will carry out an annual review of this policy in November 2024.
- 5.** In line with GDPR requirements personal data should be anonymised, should there be a need to disseminate investigation reports following any health and safety incident. Should it be necessary to share personal data as part of an investigation, recipients will be reminded to treat it appropriately and destroy it when no longer required.