

DUMMER VILLAGE HALL – Child Protection Policy

1. Definitions

- I. **Premises** is defined as Dummer Village Hall, Up Street, Dummer, Hampshire RG25 2AK
- II. **Users** are defined as, committee members and trustees, hirers and helpers, visitors, contractors, volunteers and other users of the hall.
- III. A **child** is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.

2. The purpose and scope of this policy statement

The purpose of this policy statement is to protect children and young people who are in the care of users of Dummer Village Hall [**Premises**] and that make use of the services provided by the Premises.

This policy aims to provide users and their families with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection. Dummer Village Hall aims to ensure that the welfare and safety of children and young people present in the Premises is paramount.

This policy applies to any representative on behalf of Dummer Village Hall, including trustees, and the contractors and paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, and other users of the Premises.

Dummer Village Hall acknowledges that the best protection for children using the Premises or as part of a group hiring the Premises is largely about attention, carefulness, and forethought of Dummer Village Hall's volunteers or in the case of a group hiring the Premises, the hirer, or hirer's staff, in preventing circumstances where abuse of trust could arise.

Any person using the Premises must not engage in any activity which could be considered abuse or neglect of a child.

A child, for the purposes of this policy, is anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday.

3. Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection).

4. Disclosure of Abuse or Neglect

When either a child reveals to a user that they are experiencing a form of abuse or neglect in the form set out in Appendix I, or if user has concern about the welfare of a child, action should be in accordance with section 5 below.

5. Action on Disclosure of Abuse or Neglect

- 5.1 If a user of the premises believes there is an emergency, then the emergency services should immediately be contacted by calling 999 from any telephone.
- 5.2 If the user believes the matter is not an emergency, they should report the matter to Hampshire Social Services on 0300 555 1384 during office hours and 0300 555 1373 during out of hours. Alternatively contact can be made via email to childrens.services@hants.gov.uk or write to: Children's Services Department, Hampshire County Council, Elizabeth II Court North, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UG
- 5.3 All users must report issues to a member of the Dummer Village Hall committee as soon as reasonably possible.
- 5.4 The Committee member that has received the report must check that Hampshire Country Council Children's Services has been contacted. The Committee member should consider (and should ask the reporter of the incident, whether they have any knowledge to suggest) whether action should

Dummer Village Hall, Up Street, Dummer,
Hampshire RG25 2AK

Last Updated: 05-03-2024



be taken by Dummer Village Hall in advance of or in conjunction with Hampshire Social Services. The Chairman of Dummer Village Hall should normally be consulted prior to any such action unless the Committee member considers that the matter is of an emergency nature. The Committee member should record their actions in writing.

6. Information

Dummer Village Hall will endeavour to bring this policy to attention of users of the Premises by displaying the Policy in a prominent position within the main hall.

7. Confidentiality

Any issues or concerns reported by users of the Premises, will as far as practicable and possible. Be kept confidential. Protection of the child's interest will override any matter of confidentiality.

8. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed and amended as necessary.

Signed:

Position:

Date:



APPENDIX I

What is Abuse and Neglect?

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's development capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment to a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming of a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

