

## **CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULTS SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

This statement of policy and procedures applies to users of, and activities in, Thorndon Village Hall and any ancillary activities which are the responsibility of the Village Hall Trust. This policy is in place to protect all children and vulnerable adults regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect.

All people associated with the Village Hall and its use have a responsibility for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. There is a named member of the Committee to whom your suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person is Marion Ravenhill who has the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The hirer can of course report their concerns directly to the LADO.

The Management Committee and Trustees will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use.

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

The Trust Management 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.

Hirers need to be aware that facilities such as the toilets might be shared with other groups and that appropriate supervision / arrangements should be made.

The 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 an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

**Acceptance of the Village Hall's Safeguarding Policy is part of the agreed contract taken out on hiring the Hall.**

A copy of this policy is available on the Thorndon Website ([thorndon.suffolk.cloud](http://thorndon.suffolk.cloud)) under About Us and then Village Hall, and will be displayed for the attention of all in the red folder next to the notice board in the main hall. The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.