

Safeguarding Policy

CREECH ST MICHAEL VILLAGE HALL

Version 3.0 — Reviewed: May 2026

1. Purpose This policy defines how Creech St Michael 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 or as participants in any activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

2. Definitions

- **Children and Young People:** Defined as persons aged under 18 years old.
- **Safeguarding Children:** Protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of health and development; ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- **Adult at Risk:** In accordance with Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, an adult at risk is someone aged 18 or over who has care and support needs, is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.
- **Persons Affected:** All trustees, volunteers, staff, hirers, contractors, and visitors attending any activity on hall property.

3. Policy Principles

- Creech St Michael Village Hall operates a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
- The welfare of the child, young person, or adult at risk is paramount.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- The charity recognises its statutory responsibilities under the Children Act 1989 and 2004, the Care Act 2014, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

4. Procedures & Key Responsibilities

- **Trustee Vetting & Training:** All committee members sign a Trustee Declaration confirming no disqualifying convictions and undertake relevant safeguarding awareness training.

- **Safe Recruitment:** Unsupervised access to children or adults at risk is strictly prohibited without appropriate vetting and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** The Management Committee appoints a designated Trustee responsible for safeguarding matters:
 - **Designated Lead:** Booking Coordinator / Designated Safeguarding Officer
 - **Contact:** Trustees / Booking Office
- **Urgent Reporting:** If a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, contact Somerset Council Social Care or the Police directly without delay. Internal reports must be lodged with the Designated Safeguarding Lead within 24 hours.
- **Hirer Obligations:** All commercial, organized, or regular hirers running activities for youth or vulnerable adults must provide a copy of their safeguarding policy and proof of valid DBS checks upon request prior to booking confirmation.

Policy Review This policy is reviewed annually by the Management Committee prior to the AGM.