



**OSWALDKIRK**

VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No 1199570

## **Safeguarding Policy**

The Hall Trustees are committed to: -

- Providing a safe environment for all users
- Responding promptly to any concerns or allegations over safeguarding

General. Oswaldkirk Village Hall is of a very simple design. The main hall area and kitchen are open spaces with lines of sight between them. The lobby and short corridor which in turn lead to the disabled and two unisex toilets are similarly visible from the main hall area. The only semi-secluded area is the store. The hiring agreement states that the store is to be kept locked during hires. The external spaces are all visible from the hall. The potential for unobserved unwanted activity is therefore very limited.

There is potential for the hall to be used for a playgroup and/or a parent and child group to meet. It is accepted that if this does occur a spring-loaded internal lock would need to be fitted at height to the main outer door to ensure that young children could not abscond and that visitors would have to signal their presence before being allowed entry. A bell would also be necessary. If the external spaces were to be used the gate would also need to be closed and adequate supervision provided.

The Trustees will appoint a Safeguarding Trustee who will monitor Community First Yorkshire website to ensure that our policy is maintained current.

The Trustees will ensure that any hirer intending to include children and/or vulnerable adults in the proposed activity submits a suitable safeguarding plan which must be approved by the Safeguarding Trustee and one other Trustee of the Hall. If the plan raises any concerns the plan will be submitted to the Trustees for comment. Hiring agreements will specify a minimum ratio of supervising adults to under eighteens. Family events will not be included in the requirement to submit a safeguarding plan.

For the purpose of this policy the term “children” will include those under 18 and the term “vulnerable adults” will include persons over 18 whose ability to protect themselves is impaired by physical or mental disability, illness, old age, emotional fragility, distress or otherwise

If cases of actual or alleged bullying, intimidation or overbearing behaviour or physical abuse are reported to an individual trustee, they will immediately report the matter to the Chair of the Hall CIO and Safeguarding Trustee who will decide on appropriate action which may be: -

Referring to the Trustees to obtain approval before reporting the matter to the relevant authorities notwithstanding the reporting individual's right to report the matter without further consultation

Referral to the Trustees with a proposal to prevent future hires of the Hall by the individual or organisation concerned.