



EDITH BANKES MEMORIAL HALL

HIGH STREET, NORTHOP

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 217747

Safeguarding Policy

Author - Robert Mackey, Chairman

Reviewed and updated - September 2023

Next review due September 2025

Introduction

The Trustees of Edith Bankes Memorial Hall desire to promote safeguarding and to fulfil its obligation to develop a facility that offers a safe environment free from inequality of opportunity for staff, volunteers and users.

They are committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates: the recognition of all persons who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

The trustees of the hall recognise that all trustees, staff and volunteers have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of the Hall and those who may come into contact with vulnerable users.

Vulnerable users could include: children, young people, adults with learning difficulties or physical disability, frail, elderly people and carers.

They should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person. This policy is in place to protect all persons regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

Principles

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, financial, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children should not be permitted or tolerated.

Policy Statement

1. No member of the trustees, helpers or other volunteers or staff will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless they have been through the safe recruitment procedure and introductory Child Protection or Vulnerable Adults Protection training.
2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a vulnerable adult or child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
3. All staff and volunteers need to be aware of this policy and should be offered introductory training.

4. There will be a nominated and named Safeguarding Officer to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person will normally be the chairperson of the trustees or someone nominated by the chairperson.
5. The Trustees will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The Trustees recognises that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled adults.
6. Any organisations or individuals hiring the Hall for the purposes of holding activities where Ofsted or ESTYN registration is required should show their registration and their own Child Protection Policy. Safe recruitment processes should be used to appoint staff or volunteers who will be working with children or vulnerable adults in any kind of activity.
7. 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. The Committee will ensure that hirers are aware 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.
8. These policies and procedures will be reviewed bi-annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

The safeguarding officer will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency. The officer may choose to have a confidential discussion with others in order to clear up any misunderstandings or to corroborate and support any suspicions before reporting a concern to the lead agency.

The safeguarding officer should:

- Know who to contact at the local authority
- Know who to contact in Social Services for advice and referrals
- Know about helplines and other sources of help for children and young people and vulnerable adults
- Ensure that there is an environment in which people have the opportunity to raise any child protection or
- Identify and discuss with the trustees any resources and training required to effect this purpose.