

# Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall

Charity Registration Number: 248628

## Safeguarding Policy

Date: 21 September 2023

### 1 Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults at risk from abuse or neglect. This policy defines how Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall operates to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable 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 and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

This Safeguarding Policy should be read alongside the Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall Equal Opportunities Policy (shown at Appendix A), which outlines the commitment to providing and promoting equal opportunities, eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity in the community.

### 2 Definitions

**Children and young people** are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all staff, contractors and volunteers and will be used to support their work.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

#### **Adult at risk of abuse or neglect**

For the purposes of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:

- has care and support needs
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service, they may still be an adult at risk. Persons affected:

- All trustees, volunteers, and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property.
- All visitors and contractors.

### **3 Policy principles**

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness.

#### **Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall charity:**

- has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
- recognises that under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.
- is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.
- is committed to the following principles:
  - The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount.
  - All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse.
  - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
  - All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

### **4 Procedures**

- a. All members of the committee will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for trustees which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
- b. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training where appropriate on safeguarding issues including whistleblowing where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding board/partnership or other local support organisation and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at 3 above.

- c. All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- d. All members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- e. The hall committee will follow safe recruitment practices.
- f. A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.
- g. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:
  - i. Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
  - ii. Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or
  - iii. Behaved towards a child (or children) or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.
- h. The hall committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring agreement. This will require all hirers who wish to use the hall for activities which include children and adults at risk, other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family, to either produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when requested to do so or, confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.
- i. The village hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

## Appendix A

### Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall

Charity Registration Number: 248628

## Equal Opportunities Policy

**Date: 21 September 2023**

### 1 Introduction

Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall is committed to providing and promoting equal opportunities, eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity in the Community.

Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall aims to create a culture that respects and values each other's differences and which promotes dignity, equality and diversity.

An up-to-date copy of this Policy is maintained on the Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall website.

### 2 Purpose

Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall recognises that supporting equality is of primary importance. This policy will help the management committee to develop sound and effective policies for the benefit of users, whilst also ensuring that the committee meets its duty under the Equality Act 2010.

### 3 Scope

This policy applies to committee members, volunteers and all hirers of the Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall.

It is the responsibility of every committee member of Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall to ensure that they do not discriminate in any way. All committee members, volunteers and hirers have a duty to uphold equal opportunities principles.

### 4 Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) applies to public bodies and others carrying out public functions. It supports good decision-making by ensuring public bodies consider how different people will be affected by the activities, policies and services provided.

The Equality Act 2010 places a Public Sector Duty on Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall to work to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who don't share it.

- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who don't share it.
- No individual will be discriminated against. This includes, but is not limited to the following characteristics (known as protected characteristics under the Act)
  - Age
  - Disability
  - Gender
  - Marital status and civil partnerships
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Race
  - Religion and beliefs
  - Sexual orientation
  - Ethnic origin
  - Nationality

## **5 Equality Commitments**

Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall supports the principles and practices of the Equality Act 2010 and recognises that it is the duty of all Committee Members to accept their personal responsibility for fostering a fully integrated community by respecting and adhering to the principles of equality for all.

Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall will actively promote equality throughout the organisation through the application of policies which will ensure that individuals receive treatment that is fair and equitable and consistent with their relevant aptitudes, potential, skills, experiences and abilities.

Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall is committed to:

- Promoting equality opportunity for all persons
- Promoting a good and harmonious environment in which all persons are treated with respect and valued.
- Preventing occurrences of unlawful direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment and victimization.
- Fulfilling its legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010

## **6 Policy Review**

The Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall Committee will review this Policy as is necessary and appropriate.