



# **LAVANT MEMORIAL HALL**

## **Safeguarding Policy**

### **1. Purpose**

This policy defines how Lavant Memorial Hall Charity (LMHC) operates to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect whilst attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the Lavant Memorial Hall

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.

### **2. Definitions**

**Children and young people** are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old.

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 to whom this policy applies**

- All LMHC trustees (i.e., members of the management committee), volunteers and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the Lavant Memorial Hall.
- 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.

LMHC has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

LMHC 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.

LMHC is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

LMHC 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.

LMHC Management Committee 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. No member of the Committee, helper or other volunteer will have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- E. The 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. The named person until further notice is Susan Ings.
- H. 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 complaint<sup>1</sup>. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:
  - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
  - Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or

---

<sup>1</sup> The safeguarding agencies for children and adults are: [WSChildrenServices@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:WSChildrenServices@westsussex.gov.uk) or [wsscp@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:wsscp@westsussex.gov.uk)



- 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.

I. Lavant Memorial Hall operates on an unattended basis i.e., trustees, staff and volunteers are not normally present during a hire. The hall Committee will ensure that all hirers have signed a hiring agreement. This requires 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 as set out in this policy

J. The Committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

Signed: .....  ..... Chair, LMHC Management Committee

W R Wignall

Date: ..... 7 November 2023 .....