

POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK

1. The welfare of children and adults at risk (previously known as 'vulnerable adults') is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and adults at risk, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children or adults at risk will not be permitted or tolerated.
2. The definition of abuse is "a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons" (No Secrets, Department of Health, 2000).
3. The definition of a vulnerable adult was a person who "may be in need of services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who may not be able to take care of him or herself, or is unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation" (Who Decides? Lord Chancellor's Department, 1997). Adults at risk include the frail and elderly.
4. The aim of this policy is to protect everybody, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith. The trustees have a particular duty to safeguard children and adults at risk who use the hall and its facilities, and will endeavour to keep the premises safe for them.
5. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. Suspicions or concerns should be reported in the first instance to the chair of trustees, who will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local safeguarding agency.
6. Groups hiring the Perranwell Centre that involve children or adults at risk will need to comply with the requirements for safeguarding. It is the responsibility of the organisers of these groups to ensure that, where necessary, they have appropriate policies and procedures in place.
7. The only exception to the above is when the hall is hired out for a private party. The trustees do not vet those hiring the hall for these one-off events. A one-off event that includes children or adults at risk does not require a safeguarding policy. Nevertheless, such hirers still have a responsibility to safeguard any children or adults at risk at their event.
8. The trustees do not supervise children or adults at risk as part of their functions. Trustees are not required to be subject to criminal records checks unless they are to have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk. Should such checks become necessary, they will be undertaken in compliance with legislation current at the time.
9. New trustees will be provided with a copy of this policy and this policy will be reviewed annually or when changes occur in national legislation or procedures.
10. A copy of this policy will be displayed on the noticeboard and the website.