

STAMFORDHAM PLAYING FIELD & VILLAGE HALL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

Stamfordham Playing Field & Village Hall recognises that it has a statutory and moral duty to ensure that it safeguards and promotes the welfare of young people during their time spent at the Village Hall or Playing Fields. The term “children” means “those under the age of 18”. Stamfordham Playing Fields & Village Hall recognises that some adults are also vulnerable to abuse. Accordingly, the procedures may be applied (with appropriate adaptations) to allegations of abuse and the protection of vulnerable adults.

DEFINITIONS:

Child: A young person under the age of 18.

Vulnerable Adult: A person aged 18 years or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or another disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.’

Disclosure: A person states they have been or are being abused by another.

Allegation: A member of staff or volunteer working with children or vulnerable adults is accused of committing an abuse

Abuse:

- A violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person.
- May consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into financial or sexual transactions to which he or she has not consented or cannot consent.
- Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of the person subject to it.

Abuse is when someone does or says things to cause upset or fright.

- Physical abuse includes being hit or slapped, being given the wrong medication on purpose, being locked in, tied up or force-fed.
- Sexual abuse is being touched or kissed when you don't want it, being made to touch or kiss someone else, being shown sexual pictures or asked to make sexual pictures of yourself, being raped or being made to listen to sexual comments.
- Sexual exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you sexually, using threats, bribes or violence to control you, and to get you to do sexual things for them or other people.
- Emotional abuse means being threatened, not being given choices, being bullied, being deliberately left alone for a long time or being tormented.
- Financial abuse means having money or personal property stolen, being tricked out of benefits, someone borrowing money and not paying it back, or being bullied into letting people use credit cards or cheques.
- Neglect means not being given enough to eat or drink, being left in dirty or wet clothes, being given the wrong medication or not being given your medication, someone not calling a doctor or nurse when help is needed or not being able to look after yourself.
- Abuse can also include slavery, domestic abuse, organisational abuse and discrimination.

STAMFORDHAM PLAYING FIELD & VILLAGE HALL WORKS TO:

- Safeguard the welfare of the young people and vulnerable adults we work with by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

- Support the creation of an environment where young people and vulnerable adults are listened to and are encouraged to talk about themselves, their lives, and any concerns they may have.

STAMFORDHAM PLAYING FIELD & VILLAGE HALL WILL SEEK TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BY:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made and training received.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and open communication.

STAMFORDHAM PLAYING FIELD & VILLAGE HALL RECOGNISES THAT CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS MAY SUFFER ABUSE IN DIFFERENT WAYS:

- Physically: Any purposeful acts of violence causing injury.
- Sexually: The exploitation of authority or power to involve a child in sexual gratification.
- Emotionally: Emotional ill-treatment or rejection affecting emotional or behavioural development.
- Neglect: Failure to provide a child with basic needs including access to adequate food, health care or education.

Staff and volunteers will be on guard to spot the signs and symptoms of abuse that can include: Physical signs such as changes in appearance, injuries and marks, and Changes to a child's behaviour.

STAMFORDHAM PLAYING FIELD & VILLAGE HALL WILL RESPOND TO SUSPICIONS OR ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE BY:

- Following any low risk disclosure or initial concern of abuse:
- Staff/volunteers will offer support and guidance to the young person and ensure their current safety.
- Staff/volunteers will record incidents and make the necessary agencies aware of any potential for concern.
- If unsure about the level of risk or appropriate support, staff/volunteers can seek advice by calling Northumberland County Council's safeguarding helpline Mon-Fri (9am to 5pm) 01670 536400 or 0345 6005252 out of hours. If there is an immediate danger call 999 Emergency Services.
- Following any disclosure or concern for a young person or vulnerable adult in immediate danger staff/volunteers will follow the procedure as attached to this policy

STAMFORDHAM PLAYING FIELD & VILLAGE HALL WILL MAINTAIN RECORDS AND RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY:

- Staff or volunteers will inform the relevant external agencies of any issues for concern and pass them a written record of any incidents or disclosures, to be kept securely by them.

STAMFORDHAM PLAYING FIELD & VILLAGE HALL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE WELFARE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IS PARAMOUNT:

- Privacy and confidentiality will be respected where possible but if doing this leaves a child at risk of harm, then the child's safety will always come first.