

# **Wiveliscombe Town Hall Trust**

## **Safeguarding Policy**

Wiveliscombe Town Hall Trust acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice. The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children

- have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in any Wiveliscombe Town Hall Trust activity.

Wiveliscombe Town Hall Trust acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy the Wiveliscombe Town Hall Trust will

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in The Wiveliscombe Town Hall Trust Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

### **Monitoring**

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every two years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board as a result of any other significant change or event.

Next review of this policy: Jan 2028

**Signed by Chair**.....**Date**.....

## Definitions

### “Safeguarding” and “Child Protection”

The Care Act 2014 defines adult safeguarding as “protecting a person’s right to live safely, free from abuse and neglect”. The categories of abuse with adults are physical abuse, emotional/psychological abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, organisational abuse, neglect, discriminatory abuse, domestic violence, modern slavery and self-neglect.

For children, the definition of safeguarding is broader and is set out in “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children”. This is the statutory guidance that sets out the legislative requirements and expectations of individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children’s health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Separate to safeguarding children is “child protection”. Child protection is defined in the Children Act 1989 as where there is “reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm”. The Children Act 1989 introduced significant harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect are all categories of significant harm. Harm is defined as the ill treatment or impairment of health and development. In simple terms, safeguarding is the overall well-being of the child and every professional and every organisation is responsible for the safeguarding of children. Within that there is child protection, when it is thought a child is either being maltreated or is at risk of maltreatment.

### Age of a Child

A child becomes an adult in law at 18 in the UK, this is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. There is no legal definition for the age of a “young person”. 16 and 17 year olds are children, in legal terms.

### Vulnerable Adult

An adult at risk is defined by the Care Act 2014 as a person 18 and over who;

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

### **Implementing this policy**

All Trustees should do the following to safeguard children and adults

- Be aware of situations which may present risks to children and adults, particularly adults who are vulnerable
- Assess, plan and organise your work so as to minimise these risks
- Always be visible to others when working with children and adults at risk.
- Report any concerns to the trustee with designated responsibility for safeguarding.

All event organisation should involve a risk assessment and necessary adjustments made.

Trustees and volunteers who will have long standing contact with vulnerable people will have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check paid for by the Trust.

All library related activities will comply with Somerset Council's safeguarding policy.