Robert Monk's Foxton Charity

Registered Charity Number 234281

Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Robert Monk's Foxton Village Hall operates to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

1. Duty of Care

The Trustees acknowledge that they have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters the Hall premises including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/ or as participants in all activities and events. There is also a duty to safeguard and support our fellow trustees and employees.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy:

Applies to all employees, hirers and trustees 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.

Adults 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 paragraph 14.2 of the Care Act 2015:

- 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.

3. Persons affected

- All trustees and employees
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall property
- All visitors and contractors

4. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, and mistreatment. 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.

Robert Monk's Foxton charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Robert Monk's Foxton charity 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.

Robert Monk's Foxton charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

Robert Monk's Foxton charity is aware of the work of the local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of adults vulnerable from abuse. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

Robert Monk's Foxton charity 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.

5. Procedures

1. All trustees will have signed the Declaration form for trustees which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
2. All Trustees and employees will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities including whistleblowing and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy.

3. All Trustees and employees will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
4. No Trustees or employees will have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted and trained in safeguarding issues.

The designated safeguarding named person is **Sarah Luke** until **1st January 2027**

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 adult 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
- behaved towards a child or children or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

The safeguarding person will ensure that all hirers of the hall have access to this Safeguarding Policy and will ensure that it is available on the website.

Village Hall Designated Safeguarding Lead

Sarah Luke 07909107558 secretary@foxtonvillagehall.org.uk

Leicestershire child protection 0116 454 1004

NSCCC Child Protection Helpline 0808 800 5000

Leicester Adult protection 0116 454 1004

V2/June 2026