

# NEWTOWN LINFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity No 503283

## SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

### Introduction

In March 2018 the Charity Commission issued updated advice on protecting children and vulnerable adults.

The Commission state that Trustees must “take reasonable steps to protect your charity’s beneficiaries, staff, volunteers and those connected with the activities of the charity from harm”, including:-

- people who benefit from your charity’s work
- staff
- volunteers
- other people connected to its activities.

### Background

The Village Hall Committee, or VHC (who are also the Trustees) runs and operates Newtown Linford Village Hall for the benefit of the people of Newtown Linford. As such it maintains the Village Hall in a safe and amenable condition, so that it can be used by Villagers and others for various activities, and acts as a landlord, renting out its facilities.

Negotiation with users is undertaken by an unpaid Trustee (the Bookings Secretary), who negotiates directly with potential users. The VHC has a “know its Users” policy, whereby the Booking Secretary makes some basic enquiries about the potential use of the Hall. However, the VHC does not consider it appropriate to undertake a full due diligence process on potential Users. The VHC will not rent out the Hall if it considers Users are not suitable, and therefore that the letting will not further the Charity’s objectives.

The Village Hall is not considered to be premises which are likely to prove attractive to potential exploiters; there are no changing rooms/showers, or small lockable rooms.

### Staff and Volunteers

The Village Hall Committee has a contract with Martyn Wormleighton to provide caretaking services, and otherwise is run by volunteers. Neither the caretaker, nor any of the volunteers, is considered by the VHC to require safeguarding, or to be at risk of sexual or other exploitation.

### Beneficiaries

The Charity’s beneficiaries are the people of Newtown Linford. The Committee is satisfied that its activities provide no safeguarding risks to the beneficiaries.

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## Users

Users who may rent out or otherwise use the Village Hall are generally of four types:-

- a) local clubs or societies
- b) Formally constituted youth groups
- c) Private parties.
- d) Commercial bookings

Local Clubs or societies are not considered to constitute a safeguarding risk, and in any case are themselves responsible for safeguarding their members.

Formally constituted Youth Groups (Village School, Playgroup, Girlguiding, Scouts etc.) are expected to manage their own safeguarding

It is acknowledged that Private Parties (which can include children's parties) do contain some safeguarding risk, and the Booking Secretary generally makes enquiries about the User and the purpose of the hire. All renters must provide a name and address.

Commercial Users (e.g. Exercise classes, markets, etc.) are treated individually on their merits, but in general the risk of mis-use is considered low.

Statement Approved by the Village Hall Committee  
29 January 2019.