



Safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults – policy

Principles and purpose

There can be no excuse for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect, and at the same time safeguarding and supporting trustees, volunteers, and staff.

Jameston Community Association (JCA) has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, and is committed to promoting wellbeing, preventing harm and responding effectively to concerns.

So this policy defines how JCA safeguards, protects and promotes the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect. It sets out how JCA handles the protection and safety of everyone who enters its premises including children, young people and adults at risk, whether as visitors or as participants in all activities and events.

JCA has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse, through the Care Act 2014 and has duties and responsibilities for the safety and care of children, under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998, and those eligible to receive health and community care services may additionally be at risk of having these rights violated, by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness.

Definitions

Children and young people are those aged under 18 years old, and **safeguarding** is:

- a) protecting children from maltreatment
- b) preventing impairment of children's health and development
- c) ensuring that children grow up receiving safe and effective care
- d) taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

An adult at risk of abuse or neglect is someone over 18 years old who

- 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 they are not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service, they may still be an adult at risk.

Abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. It can happen anywhere and at any time and it may take place in a family or in an institutional or community setting. Victims often know their abusers, although they may be strangers... adults or other children, male or female.

There are 4 main types of abuse: neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Neglect is the consistent or repeated failure to meet the basic physical and/or psychological needs of a child or vulnerable adult, which could result in the serious impairment of their health or development. It may be the failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, or to protect them from physical harm or danger. It can be to withhold access to appropriate medical care or treatment, or to refuse to give love, affection and attention.

Physical abuse is when someone hurts or injures a child or vulnerable adult by hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, scalding, suffocating, drowning or otherwise causing harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer ignores or discounts symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child or vulnerable adult in their care

Sexual abuse is where children and young people are abused by adults (both male and female) or other children who use them to meet their own sexual needs.

Sexual abusers often groom their victims and may develop physical contact with them, creating situations where sexual abuse can be disguised and go unnoticed, in order to create opportunities to abuse and reduce the likelihood of being reported.

Contacts made face to face and pursued elsewhere, such as through texts, Facebook or other social media platforms, have been used to groom children for abuse.

Sexual exploitation is a specific form of abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or vulnerable adult into sexual activity. It is exploitation even if the sexual activity appears consensual. It doesn't always involve physical contact: it may involve the use of technology.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child or vulnerable adult so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on their emotional development. It may involve conveying to the victim that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may feature inappropriate or unrealistic expectations being imposed, or even a degree of over-protection. Victims often feel frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted, which may make them very nervous and withdrawn. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child or vulnerable adult.

Victims are frequently subjected to constant criticism, name-calling, sarcasm, bullying or racism, or pressure to achieve unrealistically high results. Or it may be when their value or worth is judged by their level of success or achievement.

Procedures

- The Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Trustees includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse. Signing the declaration confirms that fact.
- All trustees will familiarise themselves with the principles and procedures of this safeguarding policy, and undertake training where appropriate on safeguarding issues (including whistleblowing) where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding board/partnership or other local support organisations.
- Trustees will work together to promote and maintain a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare are addressed openly and honestly
- No trustee, helper or other volunteers shall have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless they have been cleared through an enhanced check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- Should the hall committee ever recruit staff, the successful candidate's appointment will be conditional upon an enhanced DBS check, at JCA's expense.
- While safeguarding is a shared and universal responsibility, with each trustee, volunteer and visitors equally liable for delivering good practice, one trustee is nominated to be the JCA Safeguarding Lead, responsible for co-ordinating child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person has the responsibility of reporting concerns to the relevant authority and is.....[name].....
- All hirers of the hall sign a hiring agreement, and for any which include children and adults at risk – other than for private parties arranged for invited friends and family – hirers must either:
 - produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
 - or,
 - confirm that they have read, understood and will adhere to the hall's principles and procedures.
- The trustees review this policy annually.

Operational guidelines

JCA supports an environment where trustees, volunteers, parents/carers and the public are encouraged to raise safeguarding concerns. We take all concerns seriously and will support anyone who reports a legitimate concern, even if it turns out to be unfounded.

If a child or vulnerable adult requires urgent medical attention, call an ambulance and inform the hospital doctor that you have a child or adult-at-risk protection concern.

Allegations or concerns may be made about a person who has been and/or is in contact at the Community Hall with children or adults at risk, and who has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed 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
- behaved towards a child or adult at risk in a way that gives rise to the fear that they may pose a risk of harm.

If you or a trustee, volunteer, member of the public, child, adult at risk or volunteer see or hear of something that gives cause for concern, you must follow these steps.

1. If you have a concern about the welfare of a child, or the conduct of another child, young person or adult, inform the JCA Safeguarding Lead without delay.
2. You do not need to decide whether abuse has occurred, but you do have a duty to pass your concerns and any relevant information to the JCA Safeguarding Lead.
3. We treat all concerns in strict confidence and while the JCA Safeguarding Lead completes an Incident Report Form for a full record. We only ever share details on a “need to know” basis, with those who can help handle and resolve the concern.
4. If the JCA Safeguarding Lead is not available and a delay would be risky or dangerous, contact the County Council’s Child Care Team, the Police or the NSPCC. *(All the contact details are on the next page).*
5. The NSPCC Helpline (0808 800 5000) is always ready to discuss concerns about poor practice and abuse in confidence with any child who needs support.
6. If a child’s complaint concerns their parents or guardian, do NOT notify the parent or guardian until the JCA Safeguarding Lead has sought advice from NSPCC or the local Child Care Team.
7. If a child or vulnerable adult discloses any type of abuse, it is important that you:
 - reassure them that they did the right thing by sharing the information
 - listen carefully
 - do not make promises that cannot be kept, e.g. promising not to tell anyone else
 - do not actively question the alleged victim or lead them in any way to disclose more information than they are comfortably able to, as this may compromise any future action; only ask questions if you need to clarify your understanding, e.g. *Can you tell me what you mean by the word xxxxx?*
 - record what has been said in as much detail and as soon as you can, so you can give the fullest possible picture when you contact the JCA Safeguarding Lead.

Local contacts

The JCA Safeguarding Lead is..... and their phone number is.....

Pembrokeshire County Council Child Care Services provide protection and support to children who are at risk of abuse.	Child Care Assessment Team Pembs. County Council County Hall, Haverfordwest SA61 1TP	Child Care Duty Officer 01437 776444
	Pembrokeshire County Council Contact Centre	01437 764551
	Social Services out of hours	0300 333 2222
	Adult Safeguarding Team Domestic abuse helpline	01437 776056 0808 8010800
Samaritans		08457 90 90 90
Local police		0845 3302000 or 101 If you think a child is in immediate danger: 999
NSPCC Freephone (24 hour helpline)		0808 800 5000