

# HAVENSTREET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

Havenstreet Community Association (HCA) 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 recognised best practice.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances.

As part of our safeguarding policy, HCA, will

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding children and young people
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/voluntary involvement of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The welfare of the child is paramount

All children, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse

#### 1. Policy

- No member of the trustees, helpers or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children unless appropriately vetted.

#### Procedure

- All members of the trustees, helpers or other volunteers will be made aware of this policy and the relevant vetting procedures. Hirers must ensure that any activities for children, young people and other vulnerable adults are only provided by fit and proper persons in accordance with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and any subsequent legislation. When requested, hirers must provide the General Committee with a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

#### 2. Policy

- All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.

#### Procedure

- Any person acting on behalf of the HCA will report any suspicion or allegation to an Officer of the Association who will ensure that this is brought to the attention of the local authority Child Protection lead agency, without delay.

### **3. Policy**

- Any trustees or volunteers, acting on behalf of or with the knowledge of the HCA will be required to become aware of Child Protection issues.

#### **Procedure**

- Copies of the relevant Acts and Department of Health guidelines will, if necessary, be provided by the HCA as reference material for volunteers. Relevant Child Protection training for trustees will be encouraged, if relevant to their active involvement with event involving children or young people.

### **4. Policy**

- The policies and procedures will be regularly reviewed.

#### **Procedure**

- An annual review will take place following the AGM to allow for any required up-date of policies and or procedures. New trustees and volunteers, actively involved in events involving children and young people, will be provided with an understanding of their responsibilities in matters of child protection.

### **5. Policy**

- Members of the local community who use the facilities provided by the HCA should be aware of the Child Protection policies as adopted by the HCA.

#### **Procedure**

- All hirers who wish to use the hall for activities which include children and vulnerable adults other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family only, will be asked to produce a copy of their Child Protection Policy.

## **REVIEWS**

This was approved by the General Committee on 28/01/2021 and will be reviewed annually.

If there is any significant change in legislation or recommendation from an appropriate Association/Representative Body/ or through local circumstances the policy and procedures will be reviewed as soon as is reasonable possible and in any event before the next HCA General Committee General Committee Meeting.

