



## Village & Community Halls Advice & Support Service

For more info, contact Angela Milligan, [communityhalls@ruralkent.org.uk](mailto:communityhalls@ruralkent.org.uk)

### RK Guidance sheet: Safeguarding in village and community halls

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) has been awarded funded by the National Lottery Community Fund to promote good safeguarding practice to village and community halls throughout England.

ACRE is working with its partners, including Rural Kent, to make sure that the voluntary management committees that run halls and community buildings have the knowledge and confidence to provide a safe environment for all.

Every organisation that delivers charitable activities has a responsibility to safeguard people from harm or abuse, whether they are staff members, volunteers, or other people who come into contact with your charity through its work.

I'll be working with management committees to help them understand current legislation around safeguarding and make sure procedures are in place which reflect good practice.

Ultimately, the aim is to increase awareness of the importance of safeguarding and make sure that village and community halls are safe and welcoming places for all.

#### **Main guidance:**

#### **ACRE Information Sheet no. 5 on Safeguarding (April 2021)**

You'll find this in the membership area. Non-members can contact me for a free copy, thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund and DCMS funding.

#### **Who to report concerns to:**

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/report-abuse>

[Report adult abuse | Adult abuse and safeguarding | Medway Council](#)

[Report a child safeguarding concern | Concerned about a child | Medway Council](#)

## Other resources:

### NCVO Safeguarding information

<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/safeguarding>

NCVO membership is free to small charities and gives you access to all the resources on their website. Remember that it is catering to all types of charity, small and large, so not everything is so relevant for village halls.

They provide **online Safeguarding training**, at a cost of £55.

As this is a big focus by the government, I expect there will be more training, hopefully free, in due course. I'll also be developing some training, specifically tailored to village halls.

### NSPCC child protection guidance

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/voluntary-community-groups/>

### Safeguarding concerns: practice example – hiring out space

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/safeguarding-concerns-practice-examples/>

### Safeguarding guidance for disabled children and adults at risk

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/>

### Guidance on handling safeguarding allegations in a charity

<https://safeguarding.culture.gov.uk/>

This portal offers a step by step guide to help charities correctly manage their concerns, identify the right people to contact if needed and access helpful resources and advice.

