



BRANCEPETH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Charity Commission Registration Number: 504318

Policies

Brancepeth Community Association (BCA) has adopted the following policies to provide a safe, healthy and conducive environment for all users of our Village Hall community building; to comply with all relevant law and Charity Commission guidelines:

1. **Children & Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding**
2. **Data Protection**
3. **Equality & Diversity**
4. **Health & Safety**

The overall and final responsibility for BCA Policies sits with the management committee, who are responsible for ensuring policies are upheld. All members of the association, sections, groups, volunteers, affiliated user groups, ad-hoc hirers of the village hall (referred to hereafter as the **premises**) and other visitors are required to read and adhere to these policies. The policies are available on our website, displayed on the premises notice board, and can also be obtained from the Bookings Secretary.

1. Children & Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children and vulnerable adults (or any person) will not be permitted or tolerated.

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

- All persons using the premises need to be aware of this policy. A copy of this policy will be provided to all who request it and is also available on the internal notice board and on the BCA website.
- There will be a nominated and named representative to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person is **Ian Stoker**. Please contact Ian on **07877 165579**
- The management committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The committee recognises that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled adults.
- Any organisations or individuals hiring the premises for the purposes of holding activities where Ofsted registration is required should show their registration and their own Child Protection Policy to the Bookings Secretary.

- At least two adults must be present whenever children, young people or vulnerable adults are in the building.
- The management committee will ensure that hirers are made aware of their obligations under the Licensing Act 2003 to ensure that alcohol is not sold to those under the age of 18. The committee will ensure that hirers are aware that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film or show. No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

2. Data Protection

The BCA complies with the [new data protection law](#) that came into effect in May 2018. We hold minimal data from the following types of people:

- BCA members
- BCA sub-groups/users
- Visitors to the BCA website

Information which may be held by the BCA includes:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number & email address (where supplied)

Under no circumstances do we sell, distribute, share or lease contact information to any third party unless required to do so by law. Membership details are retained for active BCA members only. We do not store information about non-members.

Website: Our website is hosted locally on a secure platform, with content managed by a BCA Management Committee member. Hosting involves strictly necessary cookies, as defined by the ICC UK. The BCA does not use cookies or analytics except for the contact form, where email addresses are used solely to respond to enquiries and not stored afterward. Links to external websites are provided, but the BCA is not responsible for their privacy or data protection practices.

3. Equality & Diversity

The BCA aims to ensure that all members, volunteers and guests using the premises may participate fully in the Association's activities free from prejudice, stereotyping, bullying or harassment; also, that none shall receive less favourable treatment by the BCA on the grounds of age, disability, gender, pregnancy and maternity, transgender, race or ethnicity, religion, belief or sexual orientation. It is the BCA's policy to treat everyone fairly, with respect and dignity including making accessibility adjustments for disabled people.

4. Health & Safety

The BCA recognises and accepts its health and safety duties for providing a safe and healthy environment within the premises for use by its members, volunteers, contractors and the wider public, as far as is reasonably practicable, under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and all other relevant health and safety legislation.

The BCA undertakes an annual risk assessment to ensure all aspects of the premises, including its equipment and facilities, are safe, healthy and accessible. The BCA holds Public Liability Insurance and undertakes all reasonably practicable steps to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of all people on the premises. The BCA encourages persons on the premises to co-operate with all safety matters, in the identification of hazards which may exist and in the reporting of any condition which may appear dangerous or unsatisfactory. The BCA provides information and instructions for use of premises equipment. The BCA undertakes the following:

- At least two adults must be present whenever repairs or maintenance works are in progress.
- All repairs, maintenance and other building works to be carried out by professional tradespersons only and have been appointed by a member of the BCA Management Committee.
- Annual PAT testing and fire checks are carried out by a qualified person.
- All users of the premises attending events and activities are made aware of the location of fire exits.
- A First Aid kit is provided and accessible in the kitchen facility.
- The BCA participates in the [Food Hygiene Rating Scheme run by Durham County Council](#) and our facilities are currently rated as a **Level 5**.
- At least two members of the BCA Management Committee to have undertaken a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certification and not less than one to be present when food is prepared and served at BCA organised events.
- Users of the kitchen facility, when catering for their own private functions, must ensure any food handling, hygiene arrangements and serving of food and drinks meet health and safety standards.
- A Premises Licence (LAPREG/05/0031) is held but we do not hold an alcohol licence. Any requirements to serve alcoholic drinks are to be discussed with the BCA secretary.

If any user of the premises has any health and safety concerns, they should contact a member of the Management Committee on [07876 624626](tel:07876624626) /brancepethca@gmail.com

These policies are reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

Date Last Reviewed: 2025
