



# Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Parish Council recognises that it has a fundamental duty of care towards Children and Vulnerable Adults and acknowledges its responsibilities to keep them safe while engaged in any activities on its premises. The aim is to create an environment in which both Children and Vulnerable Adults are protected from abuse and harm and in which any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to. 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 discrimination, exploitation, manipulation, abuse, whether physical, verbal or sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards Children or Vulnerable adults will not be permitted or tolerated.

## THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Parish Council will do all within its powers to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the following legislative Acts or any subsequent statutory legislation passed to safeguard Children and Vulnerable adults.

- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- The Children & Social Work Act 2017
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The Protection of Children Act 1999
- The Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Equalities Act 2010

## THE GUIDELINES

Outlined below is the policy which aims to protect both Children and Vulnerable Adults from abuse, and also councillors, committee members, volunteers and employees from false accusation of inappropriate behaviour or abuse. All will be made aware of this policy and child protection and vulnerable adult issues in order to recognise that child and vulnerable adult safeguarding is our responsibility, whether or not our individual roles involve working directly with children and vulnerable adults.

1. No Councillor or volunteer will have unsupervised access to Children or Vulnerable Adults unless they have been appropriately vetted and trained.
2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse or exploitation against a Child or Vulnerable Adult will be taken seriously and reported speedily and appropriately.
3. Where required a Councillor will be nominated to be responsible for any suspicions or concerns that may be reported.

4. The Parish Council will endeavour to keep any premises used for Parish Council meetings safe for use by Children and Vulnerable Adults. The Council recognise that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled children and adults.
5. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim period.

## **PROCEDURES**

1. A copy of this policy will be published on the Parish Council website.
2. A written record of any injury that occurs, will be kept, along with the details of any treatment given.
3. The intention will be to always work in an open environment and avoid being alone with one child. Ensure any private conversation with a child is in plain view of others.
4. Where possible, obtain written parental or guardian consent if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
5. No photography and videography of children or vulnerable adults is permitted without prior parental or guardian consent.