



## Safeguarding

### SECTION 1

#### **Policy Statement**

Everyone must safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding those using Parish Council facilities. The Parish Council will review it annually.

#### **Definitions**

Children and young people:

Anyone under the age of 18 years

#### **Vulnerable Adult:**

Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- Or may need community care services

#### **To Whom this policy applies:**

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of the Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, for example, contracted to do a piece of work.

It also applies to any individual hiring, leasing or using the Parish Council facilities to deliver any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

### Section 2

#### **Promoting a safe environment**

To promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, the Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and do regular safety assessments.
- Ensure that employees, Councillors and leaders of activities in the parish or parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Members of staff and volunteers who have regular unsupervised contact with children young people or vulnerable adults during their duties MUST undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks BEFORE commencement of such duties.

#### **Expectations of behaviour**

All users of Parish Council facilities, organisers of parish events and volunteers should:

- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction are appropriate and professional.
- Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using the Parish Council facilities.

- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour to the Chair of the Parish Council, Parish /clerk or parents/carers, as appropriate.

### **Section 3**

#### **Safe working practice**

All users of Parish Council facilities must always follow the Policy and procedures.

#### **For example, they should:**

- Never leave children, young people or vulnerable adults unattended with adults who have not been subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- Plan activities to involve more than one person being present or at least in sight or hearing of others. Alternatively, record, or inform others of their whereabouts and intended action.
- Where possible, have male and female leaders working with a mixed group.
- Ensure registers are complete and attendees are marked in and signed out (under 8's must be collected by a parent/carer).
- Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without written permission from their parents/careers.
- Ensure they have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire procedures.
- When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

### **Section 4**

#### **Allegations against staff and volunteers**

The Parish Council should follow the procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers need to be reported to the Clerk of the Council who then can consult with the Councillors.

#### **Whistleblowing**

All Parish Councillors, Staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from SLCC on what steps will be taken.

#### **What should be a cause for concern?**

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child. Abuse falls into four main categories and can include child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation, referred to as FGM.

#### **The categories are as follows:**

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect
5. Financial Abuse/Manipulation

The Parish Council are committed to ensuring the safety of all users of our services and facilities and takes our responsibilities seriously. We regularly work with other agencies and Cherwell District Council to ensure compliance with changing laws and guidelines concerning safeguarding.