

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

Shafton Parish Council

In the case of an emergency where a child is in danger
phone 999 immediately.

Introduction

The Shafton Parish Council recognises that the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare of in our care.

Our policy applies to all staff, volunteers, management, individuals and outside agencies that we work with. We understand the importance of working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents/carers and others in order to promote their welfare. We recognise that all children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to be safeguarded from harm or exploitation whatever their

- race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- gender or sexuality
- age
- health or disability
- political or immigration status

- **Definition of Safeguarding**

- HM Government 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2013 guidance states that safeguarding children, young people is 'the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm' and that it is 'every ones responsibility'. Furthermore it defines Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- The guidance recognises that the voluntary and private sector play an important role in delivering services to young people and have the same safeguarding responsibilities as other bodies.

- **Purpose of this Policy**

- To afford protection for Children, young people and the vulnerable at the attending services offered by the Shafton Parish Council

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- To enable staff, management members and volunteers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and the vulnerable
- To promote a culture which makes our facilities a safer place in which to participate.

- **The main elements of this policy**

- To ensure we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- To raise awareness of child protection issues with staff, management members and volunteers.
- To equip young people with the skills needed for them to keep themselves safe.
- To develop and then implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- To support children and young people who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan when we have access to it
- To establish a safe environment in which children and young people can develop and grow.
- We recognise that because of our voluntary relationship with young people, our staff and volunteers are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse.

We will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where our children and Young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are valued and listened to.
- Ensure our children and young people know that there are adults in our Parish Council whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in our activities for our children, young people and the vulnerable to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

- **Our procedures are to:**

- Ensure we have a nominated member who is responsible for safeguarding.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers know the name of the designated senior person responsible for 'safeguarding' and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated senior person responsible for 'safeguarding'.
- Develop effective links with Barnsley Targeted Youth Support Service for training, support and advice.

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- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main youth group member file and in locked locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff, management member or volunteer
- To seek advice on and ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Promote an ethos which is positive, supportive and a secure environment and gives young people a sense of being valued;
- Ensure that the young people know that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred;
- Liaise with other agencies that support the young person such as schools, social services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service etc. on request
- Signpost our young people to the relevant service which is appropriate to their need.
- **The Role of the Designated member – Safeguarding (Child Protection).**
- The designated member for child protection is

Contact Details – **To be agreed**

- The designated member is responsible for advising staff and acting as a liaison for other agencies when actual or suspected cases of abuse relate to children and young people at the facilities. Child protection issues are highly sensitive and should only be shared with people who are judged to need to know. It may not be necessary for every member of the staff team to know the full details of any such case except to know that there has been a disclosure or incident and that it is being dealt with. Safeguarding/child protection concerns will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.
- **Confidentiality**
- The protection of young people relies on the sharing of information amongst those who need to know. As committee members / practitioners, we will be concerned about the need to balance our duties in order to protect young people from harm and the principles of working which underpin our role of provider.
- The Parish Council are bound by its organisation policies and procedures. This means we have a duty to respond where a young person is suffering or

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at risk of significant harm. It is the harm which must be significant not the act or omission, harm that is considerable, noteworthy or important. There is a need to look at the effect of the harm on the child

- The Parish Council should not promise a young person unconditional confidentiality. Young people need to be aware that youth workers are obliged to share information regarding child abuse disclosures or allegations with other agencies to ensure a young person's safety.
- The Children Act 1989 / 2004 and subsequent amendments recognises the need to consult with young people and to take their views into account increases with the increased age and understanding of the young person concerned. Committee members should follow the practice of helping young people to take decisions affecting their own lives in a child protection context, while at the same time recognizing there may be times when they will need to put the safety of the young person above the principles of empowerment.
- Where possible, consent should be obtained from a young person before sharing personal information with third parties. In some circumstances, obtaining consent may be neither possible nor desirable, as the safety and welfare of a young person is the priority.
- Where a disclosure has been made, the Parish Council should let young people know their position regarding their role and what action they will have to take as a result. Workers should assure young people that they will keep them informed of any action to be taken and why. The young person's involvement in the process of sharing information should be fully considered and their wishes and feelings taken into account.

(Appendix 1) Barnsley Safeguarding Glossary

Children & Young people	Anyone who has not yet reached their 18 th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	Defined for the purpose of this guidance as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting children from maltreatment; • preventing impairment of children's health or development;

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	ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care: and taking action to enable all children have the best life chances.
Child protection	Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.
Abuse	A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act or prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children,
Physical abuse	A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
Emotional abuse	The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of the other person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

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<p>Sexual abuse</p>	<p>Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non – contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.</p>
<p>Neglect</p>	<p>The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child’s health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); • protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; • ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or • ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. <p>It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.</p>

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