

NETTLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

SECTION 1

1) Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Parish Council facilities.

The Parish Council will review it annually.

2) Definitions

Children and young people: Anyone under the age of 18 years

Vulnerable Adult: Anyone over the age of 18 who is:

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

3) 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 for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

SECTION 2

1) Promoting a safe environment

In order 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 parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Ensure that the Policy for users of parish facilities includes a requirement that they are safe to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
 - For example, those adults who have regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties should undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service checks.
- Display on notice boards the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help.

2) Hiring of facilities to groups for use with children, young people or vulnerable adults

The Parish Council will require the hirer to:

- Have public liability insurance.
- Have a suitable safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults' policy and/or agree to work to the Parish Council's policy and relevant guidance.
- Ensure leaders make their members aware of the Parish Council Policy and₁ ensure that it is followed whilst using parish facilities.

- Ensure leaders have valid enhanced DBS checks as appropriate and know where the first aid box is.
- Do risk assessments for individual activities.

SECTION 3

1) Safe working practice

All users of Parish Council facilities must follow the safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adult's policy and procedures at all times. 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 parents/carers.
- Ensure they have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire procedures.
- Ensure that where a child, young person or vulnerable adult needs assistance with toilet trips and when first aid is required, that this is carried out in pairs or in the latter case, that it is carried out where they can be seen.
- When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

2) Expectations of behaviour

All users of Parish Council facilities should:

- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction with users should be appropriate and professional.
- Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using the facilities.
- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism and bullying and in addition to report any instances of such behaviour to group leaders, parish councillors, the parish Clerk or parents and carers, as appropriate.

SECTION 4

1) Allegations against staff and volunteers

- All staff and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. It is advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.
- If an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the lead person/supervisor or the most senior staff member available.
- If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the lead person/supervisor the recipient of the allegation will immediately inform the person's line manager or the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council should follow the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnerships (LSCP) procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers on the LSCP website. No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). See contact details below.

2) Whistleblowing

All 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 the Clerk or by contacting the LSCP Safeguarding Team.

3) 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:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

All staff and volunteers coming in to contact with children and vulnerable adults need to have an awareness of safeguarding.

4) Reporting Concerns

If you believe that a child or adult may be a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty you should **ALWAYS** report your concerns to the Lincolnshire County Council's LSCP safeguarding team(s).

- Children's safeguarding - 01522 782111 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)
- Adult's safeguarding - 01522 782155 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)
- or 01522 782333 (outside office hours)

In an emergency always dial 999

If you believe that a crime has been committed and there is an immediate risk of danger, call the police on 999 or 112. If there is no immediate danger, call the police on 101.

If you have a concern about domestic abuse, call EDAN Lincs on 01522 510041.

For further information about reporting a safeguarding concern go to:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/report-concern>

**This Policy was adopted at the meeting of the Parish Council – 23.02.21.
To be reviewed by 23.02.22**