

Stockton Parish Council

Safeguarding Children, Young people and Vulnerable Adults “Safeguarding Policy 2022”

1. Background

Stockton Parish Council's only current responsibility for property that can be used by children or vulnerable adults is as the prime tenant of Stockton Children's Playing Field. This is managed on its behalf by Stockton Playing Field Committee.

2. Policy Statement

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.

3. 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 be in need of community care services

4. 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 contractual capacity.

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.

5. Promoting a safe environment

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

- Ensure that safe facilities are provided and that regular safety assessments are performed.
- Ensure that employees, Councillors and leaders of activities on parish facilities are aware of the safeguarding expectations. Whilst Councillors are unlikely to be involved with children in the performance of their duties, they should be mindful of the risk they face.

6. Expectations of behaviour

Organisers of events for children, young people or vulnerable adults that take place on parish council facilities are required to

- Have public liability insurance.
- Have a suitable safeguarding 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 and ensure that it is followed whilst using parish facilities.

7. Reports and Allegations

All Parish Councillors, staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of others and appropriate advice will be sought from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or Safeguarding Team as to how to handle such allegations. The Parish Council must not make a judgement on whether the allegations have merit for further investigation, this decision must be for the LADO team.

8. What should be a cause for concern

Staff, Councillors 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 these main categories

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

9. Review of Policy

The Parish Council confirm this safeguarding policy will be updated as and when such legislative/best practice changes take place or at least annually

Reviewed by Stockton Parish Council 19th June 2023