

Bramley Parish Council

serving the community since 1894



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SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Bramley Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

Definitions

A child is under 18 years of age (The Children Act 1989).

A vulnerable adult is a person: "who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation". (1997 Consultation Paper 'Who decides?', issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department).

Safeguarding

1. The Parish Council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons in that:
 - The welfare of the child and the vulnerable adult is paramount.
 - All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse.
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
 - All staff, volunteers and elected Members of the Council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.
 - All staff, volunteers and elected Members of the Council are not to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred. You must refer; you must not investigate.
2. The Council will practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children and vulnerable people.
3. No elected Member of the Parish Council, staff, helpers or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children and vulnerable adults, unless appropriately vetted and have the appropriate training.
4. Councillors, volunteers and other members of staff will not be subject to DBS checks unless there is a change in the council duties which requires regular contact with children and vulnerable people.
5. Bramley Parish Council has a duty of care to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes including risk assessments and health and safety practices.
6. Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff or elected Member of the Council must be referred immediately to the Parish Clerk, who will record the incident and refer the matter to Social Services at Surrey County Council for investigation.

7. If it is believed that a child or vulnerable person is in immediate danger, the Police should be called by dialling 999.
8. Hirers of our facilities are made aware of our Safeguarding policy and where appropriate, at the time of their booking, will be asked to produce a copy of their safeguarding policy.
9. All members of staff, helpers and volunteers will be made aware of this policy and the relevant procedures. Relevant training in this area will be provided if required.

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