

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Widdrington Station and Stobswood Parish Council

1. Purpose

Widdrington Station and Stobswood Parish Council is committed to safeguarding vulnerable adults and promoting their wellbeing.

The Council recognises its responsibility to act appropriately where safeguarding concerns arise.

This policy follows safeguarding guidance from the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Parish councillors
- Council employees
- Volunteers working on behalf of the council
- Contractors delivering services for the council

It applies where the council:

- Organises community events
 - Provides community facilities
 - Works with organisations supporting vulnerable adults
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3. Legal Framework

Safeguarding responsibilities are supported by legislation including the Care Act 2014.

Under this legislation, safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live safely, free from abuse and neglect.

Although parish councils are not statutory safeguarding authorities, they must respond appropriately when concerns arise.

4. Definition of a Vulnerable Adult

A vulnerable adult may be a person aged 18 or over who:

- Has care and support needs
 - Is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect
 - Is unable to protect themselves due to their circumstances
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5. Types of Abuse

Abuse of vulnerable adults may include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial abuse
- Neglect
- Discriminatory abuse
- Domestic abuse

Councillors and staff should remain alert to possible signs of abuse.

6. Responsibilities

Parish Council

The council will:

- Promote awareness of safeguarding issues
 - Ensure safeguarding considerations are included when organising community activities
 - Work with partner organisations that have appropriate safeguarding arrangements
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Councillors and Staff

Councillors and staff must:

- Treat vulnerable adults with dignity and respect
- Remain alert to safeguarding concerns
- Report concerns appropriately

Parish Clerk

The Clerk will:

- Maintain safeguarding policies
 - Provide guidance to councillors and staff
 - Ensure safeguarding concerns are referred to the appropriate authorities
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7. Reporting Concerns

If a councillor or employee has concerns regarding the safety of a vulnerable adult they should:

1. Record the concern as soon as possible
2. Report the concern to the Clerk or Chair
3. Where appropriate, refer the matter to the relevant safeguarding authority or adult social services

If a person is in immediate danger, emergency services should be contacted immediately.

8. Confidentiality

Safeguarding concerns must be handled with sensitivity.

Information will only be shared with those who need to know in order to protect the individual.

9. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with safeguarding guidance and legislation.

Adoption

Adopted by:

Widdrington Station and Stobswood Parish Council

Date: _____

Chair Signature: _____

Clerk Signature: _____