

Barnoldby le Beck Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose & Scope

This policy defines how Barnoldby le Beck fulfils its duty of care. It applies to all councillors, the clerk, contractors, and volunteers. Because the Council does not own premises or run regular children's services, this policy focuses on identifying and reporting concerns.

2. Policy Statement

The Council believes that no one should ever experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults, and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

3. Areas of Risk

Though the Council operates without physical premises, safeguarding responsibilities still apply during:

- **Public meetings** and community events.
- **Management of open spaces**, the village green.
- **Work carried out by contractors** or volunteers on behalf of the Council.
- **Digital communication** and online interactions.

4. Responding to Concerns (North East Lincolnshire Council)

If a councillor, staff member, or volunteer becomes aware of a safeguarding concern, they must **not** attempt to investigate it themselves. The procedure is as follows:

1. **Immediate Danger:** If a person is in immediate danger of harm, call the Police straight away on **999**.
2. **Non-Immediate Concerns:** Report the matter to the Clerk (the designated Safeguarding Officer) within 24 hours.
3. **External Referral:** The Clerk will immediately log the concern and refer it to the following statutory teams:
 - **Concerns about a Child:**
 - **Office Hours:** Call the **North East Lincolnshire Council Children's Social Care Integrated Front Door** on **01472 326292** (Select Option 2, then Option 2). (*Mon–Thu 8:30am–5pm, Fri 8:30am–4:30pm*).
 - **Out of Hours:** Call the Emergency Duty Team on **01472 326292** (Option 2).
 - **Concerns about an Adult:**
 - Statutory adult safeguarding for North East Lincolnshire Council is managed via **Focus Independent Adult Social Work**.
 - **All Hours (24/7):** Call the Single Point of Access (SPA) on **01472 256256** (Select Option 2)

5. Code of Conduct

When representing the Council, all individuals must:

- Treat everyone with respect and dignity.
- Avoid being left entirely alone with a child or vulnerable adult.
- Maintain professional boundaries in person and online.

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Full Council.

Adopted on: 23.09.26

Next Review Date: May 2027