



CRESSWELL PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENTS OF GUIDANCE AND POLICY

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Safeguarding Lead :Councillor Christine Tyrrie

Introduction.

Cresswell Parish Council is committed to Safeguarding Children in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines.

The purpose of this policy is to give guidance to Councillors, residents and volunteers or others regarding the welfare of all children and young people.

This policy and procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods. All councillors and volunteers need to be aware of this policy.

We will safeguard children by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all children safe.

Cresswell Parish Council is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to children which necessitates: the recognition of children who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how child abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, in the person's own home and in any care setting.

Cresswell Parish Council is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all children to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Policy Statement:

Cresswell Parish Council are committed to ensuring the safety of all users of our services and facilities and take our responsibilities seriously. The Council will endeavour to keep the village safe for use by all children and young people. The Council recognises that a higher

standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices.

Cresswell Parish Council is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Cresswell Parish Council acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all children involved. The welfare of the child is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and young people, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children and young people will not be permitted or tolerated.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
 - all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
 - some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
 - extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

All councillors, organisers of parish events and volunteers should: ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional, treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using the Parish Council facilities, refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour to the Chair of the Parish Council, Parish Clerk or parents/carers, as appropriate.

Definitions:

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

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of Cresswell Parish Council to safeguarding children and to ensure that everyone involved in Cresswell Parish Council is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding children.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding children.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of a child within the community.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/child protection](http://nspcc.org.uk/child-protection).

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, referred to as FGM. The categories are as follows:

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

We regularly work with other agencies and Northumberland County Council to ensure compliance with changing laws and guidelines in relation to safeguarding.

Scope:

This safeguarding children policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in Cresswell Parish Council and to all concerns about the safety of children and young adults whilst taking part in our organisation, its activities and in the wider community.

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.

No member of the council, helper or other volunteer or staff will have unsupervised access to children or young people unless they have been through the safe recruitment procedure and introductory Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults

Protection training and must undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service ("DBS") checks BEFORE commencement of such duties.

Safe Working Practices:

- Never leave children and young people 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 their parents/carers.
- Ensure they have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire procedures.
- When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

Reporting Incidents:

All Parish Councillors, 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 LADO or Safeguarding Team as to how to handle such allegations.

The Parish Council should follow the procedures for managing allegations against any Parish Councillors/Staff /volunteers on the Cresswell Parish Council Procedures Document.

See Cresswell Parish Council Safeguarding Adults Procedures Document Flow chart for additional information.

The nominated Child Protection representative, will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection agency. In this instance the lead agency would be Northumberland County Council (Local Authority Designated Office-LADO). The representative may choose to have a confidential discussion with others in order to clear up any misunderstandings or to corroborate and support any suspicions before reporting a concern to the lead agency.

The nominated person should:

- know who to contact at the local authority
- know who to contact in Social Services for advice and referrals
- know about helplines and other sources of help for children and young people
- ensure that there is an environment in which staff have the opportunity to raise any child protection concerns

Contacts to report possible safeguarding issues:-

Councillor Christine Tyrie mobile / 07932735172 cmt.doctors@gmail.com

Northumberland county council One call 01670536400 Text phone 01670536844

onecall@northumberland.gov.uk

Allegations against staff and volunteers:

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or young person will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. This includes the children of adults who use our services and activities.

There will be a nominated and named Vulnerable Users representative to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported.

This person at CPC is Councillor Chris Haworth

More ways to help to protect children

Take the NSPCC online course Child protection: an introduction nspcc.org.uk/cpintro

Sign up to our weekly safeguarding current awareness newsletter nspcc.org.uk/caspar

View more information and resources for voluntary and community organisations
nspcc.org.uk/vcs

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Commitments

In order to implement this policy Cresswell Parish Council will ensure that:

- Everyone involved with Cresswell Parish Council is aware of the safeguarding children procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.
- Any concern that a child is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up in line with Cresswell Parish Council Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.
- The well-being of those at risk of harm will be put first and the child actively supported to communicate.
- Any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with our Data Protection Policy.
- Cresswell Parish Council acts in accordance with best practice advice, for example, from NCVO, NSPCC and Ann Craft Trust.
- Cresswell Parish Council will cooperate with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities in taking action to safeguard a child.
- All Parish Councillors understand their role and responsibility for safeguarding children and have completed and are up to date with safeguarding children training and learning opportunities appropriate for their role.
- Cresswell Parish Council uses safe recruitment practices.
- Cresswell Parish Council shares information about anyone found to be a risk to children with the appropriate bodies. For example: Disclosure and Barring Service, Services, Police, Local Authority/Social Services.
- When planning activities and events Cresswell Parish Council includes an assessment of, and risk to, the safety of all children from abuse and neglect and designates a person

who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.

- Actions taken under this policy are reviewed by the Parish Council on an annual basis.
- This policy, related policies (see below) and the Safeguarding Adults Procedures are reviewed no less than on a two yearly basis and whenever there are changes in relevant legislation and/or government guidance as required by the Local Safeguarding Board or as a result of any other significant change or event.

Implementation

Cresswell Parish Council is committed to developing and maintaining its capability to implement this policy and procedures.

In order to do so the following will be in place:

- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for the safety and welfare of all children.
- Access to relevant legal and professional advice.
- Reporting when necessary how risks to child safeguarding are being addressed.
- Safeguarding children procedures that deal effectively with any concerns of abuse or neglect, including those caused through poor practice.
- The consideration of a safeguarding Lead.
- The ability to work effectively with other relevant organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for sharing information.
- Expected codes of conduct for Parish Councillors that specify zero tolerance of abuse in any form.
- Risk assessments that specifically include safeguarding of children.
- Policies and procedures that address the following areas and which are consistent with this Safeguarding Children policy.
 - ✓ Safeguarding Adults
 - ✓ Bullying and harassment
 - ✓ Social Media
 - ✓ Equality, diversity and inclusion
 - ✓ Safe activities risk assessments
 - ✓ Code of Conducts and a process for breach of these
 - ✓ Discipline and grievance
 - ✓ Complaints
 - ✓ Whistleblowing
 - ✓ Information policy, data protection and information sharing

Appendix 1 - Example Role Description: Safeguarding Lead

The designated person within a Councils organisation has primary responsibility for putting into place procedures to safeguard adults at risk and for managing concerns about adults at risk. At Cresswell Parish Council this person is Councillor Tyrie.

Duties and responsibilities include:

- Working with others within the organisation to create a positive inclusive environment.
- Play a lead role in developing and establishing the organisation's approach to safeguarding adults and in maintaining and reviewing the organisation's implementation plan for safeguarding adults in line with current legislation and best practice.
- Coordinate the dissemination of the safeguarding adult policy, procedures and resources throughout the organisation.
- Contribute to ensuring other policies and procedures are consistent with the organisation's commitment to safeguarding adults.
- Advise on the organisation's training needs and the development of its training strategy.
- Receive reports of and manage cases of poor practice and abuse reported to the organisation – including an appropriate recording system.
- Support the chair to co-ordinate the case management process.
- Manage liaison with, and referrals to, external agencies for example adult social-care services and the police.
- Create a central point of contact for internal and external individuals and agencies concerned about the safety of adults within the organisation.

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