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# Safeguarding Policy

MAY 2025

## **Our Commitment**

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those interacting with and for the Council

## **Definitions**

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

Vulnerable Adult: Anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves and/or unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

## **Promoting a safe environment**

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

- Ensure that employees and Councillors are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Display on Parish Council notice boards in the village the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help. A copy will also be made available on the Parish Council website.

## **Expectations of behaviour**

When representing the Council employees and councillors should:

- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional.
- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour immediately to the Chair of the Parish Council, Parish Clerk as appropriate.

## **Whistleblowing**

All Councillors and staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from DCC Safeguarding Team as to how to handle such allegations. The Council must not make a judgement on whether the allegations have merit for further investigation. What should be a cause for concern by Staff and volunteers should be their concern by any action or

inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or a vulnerable adult. Abuse falls into five 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

The Council are committed to ensuring the safety of all those who they interact with. We regularly work with other agencies including CDALC to ensure compliance with changing laws and guidelines in relation to safeguarding.

#### **Monitoring and review**

This policy will be monitored periodically by the council to judge its effectiveness and will be updated in accordance with changes in the law.

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