

Wingerworth Parish Council – Safeguarding Policy

The Council does not organise any activities for children or young people and has no significant contact with them whether through staff or Members of the Council. However it does provide facilities for others to organise activities for children and young people and so has an overarching duty of care which it exercises by requiring organisers to have good safeguarding practices in place and by maintaining a general overview on all activities taking place in Council facilities.

Introduction

Wingerworth Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council. Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using parish council facilities.

Definitions

Children and young people:

- Anyone under the age of 18 years
- Vulnerable Adult. Anyone over 18 who is:
 - Unable to care for themselves
 - Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
 - May be in need of community care services

Policy statement

Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered to be a child and the welfare of the child is paramount. All children, young people and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to live in safety, without emotional cruelty, neglect, violence, or sexual abuse. Suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately and reported for investigation to the Derbyshire Safeguarding Board or the Police as felt appropriate.

Aims

In line with this policy the Council aims to provide a healthy and safe environment so that children, young people and vulnerable adults feel safe and secure whenever taking part in any activities on Council premises.

The Council aims to ensure that all organisations using Council facilities promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and young people and to protect them from abuse.

The Council aims to ensure that all organisations and individuals using or working at Council facilities respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and vulnerable adults and ensure that they are listened to.

The Council aims to ensure that any allegations made by a child are taken seriously and that any allegations and suspicions are investigated by Derbyshire Safeguarding Board or the Police, as appropriate.

Implications

Councillors are expected to consider safeguarding issues whenever pertinent in formulating policy and making decisions.

Council staff are expected to understand this policy and be vigilant about the general treatment of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Volunteers working with the Council are requested to acquaint themselves with the policy and report any concerns to the Council's Child Protection Officer.

Organisations using Council facilities are expected to have in place sufficient safeguarding procedures to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in their activities.

Contractors engaged by the Council are expected to have in place appropriate safeguarding procedures.

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Wingerworth Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Wingerworth Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this, Wingerworth Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular health and safety assessments
- Ensure that employees and Councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations and how to report concerns
 - The Local Authority 01629 533190
 - The NSPCC 0808 800 5000

What should be a cause for concern

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or a vulnerable adult. A child or vulnerable adult may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and their peers, and abuse can occur in any family or in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location.

Abuse falls into four main categories:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

If you think a child is in danger contact Call Derbyshire 01629 533190 choosing the option for urgent child protection calls or the police via 101.

The Council's Child Protection Officer is the Clerk to the Council.

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