



Safeguarding Policy

1 Introduction

Scarning Parish Council recognises its statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all people in the parish, whether they are adults or children. The Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and adults with care and support needs are protected and kept safe whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council. All members of the Council recognise the importance of providing an ethos and environment that allows people to be safe and to feel safe. It is not the role of Scarning Parish Council to investigate allegations of abuse. However, all staff, councillors, volunteers and contractors have a responsibility to take action if they suspect or recognise that a child, or vulnerable adult, may be a victim of significant harm or abuse. This policy has been developed using the principles of the Equality Act 2010 and the Working Together to Safeguard Children Act 2018.

2 Definitions

The phrase children, young people and vulnerable adults refers to:-

- a. Anyone under the age of 18 years
- b. Someone who is over the age of 18 who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of mental health or other disability, age or illness, and is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation

Abuse covers any form of physical, emotional, mental and sexual abuse including bullying or a lack of care that leads to injury or harm. For vulnerable adults, abuse may also be financial.

3 Objectives

The objectives of the Council's policy are:-

- To ensure that the Council takes all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults using its services
- To follow a procedure in responding to and recording any safeguarding complaints, and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.

4 Procedure for Litter Picking and other Council Events

The Parish Council, or anyone undertaking activities on behalf of the Parish Council, is responsible for ensuring that participants in any Parish Council organised event with children or vulnerable adults are appropriately briefed before participating in any event.

As the Parish Council does not directly provide supervision services to children and adults with care and support needs, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

No unaccompanied child will be permitted to take part in any activity organised by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council's insurers have provided the following regarding its litter picks. 'Employees and volunteers should be between the ages of 16-75 years and must be physically fit and able to carry out the work expected of them in order for them to be covered by the Personal Accident section of the policy. Anyone under the age of 16 will require an adult to be present and will require parental permission.'

All staff, councillors and volunteers acting in conjunction with the Council's activities should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult.

All new councillors will be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy.

5 Council Owned Play Facilities

The Council's play facilities are inspected regularly by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council. The play facilities are inspected annually by an independent qualified contractor.

In the event of a contractor working directly for the Parish Council being deemed to be working in any area where children or vulnerable adults may be at risk then that contractor will be asked to provide a copy of their Safeguarding Policy.

Any organisation which is engaged by the Parish Council to work with children and/or vulnerable adults, such as the YMCA, will be required to submit a copy of its Safeguarding Policy to the Council before being contracted. The organisation's policy must, as a minimum, adhere to the standards set out within this policy.

6 Procedure

The Council and anyone undertaking activities on the Council's behalf should follow the following procedure.

- If there is any concern of child abuse reported (incident or allegation) it should be referred to Children's Services at Norfolk County Council
- Record any allegation a person may make to a member of staff, councillor or volunteer. The records should be as stated and not questioned. The records will be signed and dated.

Approved: April 2023. Reviewed without amendment February 2024.

Next review: February 2026, or earlier if changes to the law requires.