



# WOOLFARDISWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

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The following Safeguarding Policy and Procedure was adopted by Woolfardisworthy Parish Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017, with the following revisions:

Reviewed	Date	Reviewed	Date
Adopted	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Reviewed	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Reviewed		Reviewed	

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. Woolfardisworthy Parish Council is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults and protecting them from abuse. This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults when they are engaged in services organised and provided by Woolfardisworthy Parish Council.

### Safeguarding statement

We will endeavour to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from abuse and suspicion of abuse will be responded to promptly and appropriately. We will act in the best interest of the child, young person or vulnerable adult at all times.

We will proactively seek to promote the welfare and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults permanent whether they be residents or temporarily living in the community at all times.

Woolfardisworthy Parish Council will ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children, young people and vulnerable adults through using safe recruitment and selection processes.

Woolfardisworthy Parish Council will take any concern made by a service user, employee, volunteer or child/vulnerable adult seriously and sensitively.

Woolfardisworthy Parish Council will not tolerate harassment of any service user, employee, volunteer or child/vulnerable adult who raises concerns of abuse.

The policy will be reviewed by the parish council bi annually.

## **Definitions**

Children and young people:

- Anyone under the age of 18 years

Vulnerable Adult:

- An adult at risk is someone over 18 years old who:
- has care and support needs
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service they may still be an adult at risk.

## **To whom this policy applies**

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Woolfardisworthy 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, Woolfardisworthy Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this, Woolfardisworthy Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments
- Ensure that employees and councillors are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities
- Make available on public notice boards and to employees and councillors, the contact details of the following:

Concerns about a child or young person:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0345 155 1071

Concerns about a vulnerable adult:

- Care Direct 0845 155 1007

## **Allegations against staff and volunteers**

All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

The Parish will follow the DSCB policy for managing allegations against staff/volunteers, a copy of which can be found on the DSCB website: <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/>

No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) who can be contacted on 01392 384 964.

## **Whistleblowing**

We recognise that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.

All 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.

### **What should be a cause for concern**

Staff and Volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms 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.

Safeguarding children has four categories of abuse:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglect

Safeguarding adults has ten categories of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Self-neglect

Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children or vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training through the Devon Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) and the Devon Safeguarding Adult Board (DSAB) but further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the DSCB website <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/> and the DSAB website <https://new.devon.gov.uk/devonsafeguardingadultsboard/>

### **Procedure**

Employees, Councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to MASH or Care Direct.

Those raising the concern must be made aware that the concern will be shared with the appropriate people, but will be treated in confidence as far as possible.

Concerns raised by Councillors, employees or volunteers cannot be anonymous and should be made in the knowledge that, during the course of any enquiries, the agency that made that referral will be made clear.

Officers, employees and volunteers must not discuss the concern except with the designated officer and any agent of the organisation responsible for investigating the concern.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and therefore the person with the concern must make the safeguarding enquiry. If any of the Councillors, employees or volunteers have reported a safeguarding concern they must also inform Mrs Lisa Hutchings, Parish Clerk.

Signed by: Lisa Hutchings, Parish Clerk.

Date: