

ROCKHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

DOCUMENT HISTORY			
Revision No	Details	Minute Ref	Date approved
1	1 st Issue	20/047	17/08/2020
	Reviewed by Clerk and approved	185/22.1.2	21/11/2022
	Reviewed by Clerk and approved	238/23.4.	21/06/2023
	Reviewed by Clerk and approved	312/24.4	12/06/2024

Policy Statement

The welfare of the child or adults at risk of abuse or neglect is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, bullying, exclusion, or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect will not be permitted or tolerated.

Rockhampton Parish Council has a duty to safeguard children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and those who may come into contact with vulnerable people.

Definition of Abuse

Types of child abuse (taken from NSPCC) include:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Grooming
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Trafficking
- Neglect
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Bullying
- Online Abuse

Types of adult abuse, informed by the Care Act 2014, include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Financial abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Institutional abuse

And, that consent would be obtained from an adult at the time of the concern before referring them to an agency where possible.

The Working Together 2015 definition of child abuse may be more useful to quote which is as follows:

- A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an

institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. (Definition provided by Working Together)

Definition of an Adult at risk of abuse or neglect

An adult at risk of abuse or neglect is defined as a person who: “may be in need of services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness: and who may not be able to take care of him or herself, or is unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.” This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion, or faith.

Policy Statement

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adults at risk of abuse or neglect will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. There is a named member of the Management Committee to whom your suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person is Stephen Plumb. This person has the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the Local Authority Child Protection agency.

The Parish Council will endeavour to keep any premises used by it safe for use by children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

Activities Groups that take place organised by the Parish Council that involves children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect will need to comply with the requirements for safeguarding. It is the responsibility of the organisers of these groups to ensure that they comply and have all the appropriate policies and procedures in place. Each group should have its own safeguarding policy.

Consent should be obtained for photography.

General Points

The Parish Council does not supervise children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect as part of their function within the Parish. DBS checks are not required by them unless they are to have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Should DBS checks become necessary they will be undertaken in compliance with the Protection of Children Act [1999], The Children’s Act [2004], part V of the Police Act [1997], the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and the Care Act 2014.

When the Parish Council organise events to include children – it is always stated that children must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or when changes occur in National Legislation or Procedures. New Councillors will be provided with an understanding of their responsibilities in line with this policy.

Any volunteers working for the Parish Council and having unsupervised access to children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect users may also be required to undergo these procedures.

Guidelines for responding to abuse or suspicion of abuse – some DO's and DON'T's

DO

- Do treat any allegations extremely seriously and act at all times towards the child as if you believe what they are saying.
- Do tell the child they are right to tell you.
- Do reassure them that they are not to blame.
- Do be honest about your own position, who you have to tell and why.
- Do tell the child what you are doing and when and keep them up to date with what is happening.
- Do take further action – you may be the only person in a position to prevent future abuse – tell your nominated person immediately.
- Do write down everything said and what was done (see notes on recording).
- Do seek medical attention if necessary.
- Do inform parents/carers unless there is suspicion of their involvement.
- Don't make promises you can't keep.
- Don't interrogate the child – it is not your job to carry out an investigation – this will be up to the police and social services, who have experience in this.
- Don't cast doubt on what the child has told you, don't interrupt or change the subject.
- Don't say anything that makes the child feel responsible for the abuse.
- Don't Do Nothing – make sure you tell your nominated child protection person immediately – they will know how to follow this up and where to go for further advice.

Reporting Concerns

Concerns should be reported as follows:

Concerned about an adult?

South Gloucestershire Safeguard Adults Board

01454 868007 – Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm
01454 615165 – Out of hours and weekends
In an emergency ring 999

Concerned about a child?

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

01454 866000 – Monday to Thursday 9am – 5pm
01454 866000 – Out of hours and at weekends
In an emergency ring 999