

Easton Parish Council

Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

General principles:

- Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered to be a child.
- The definition of a Vulnerable Adult in the context of this policy document is anyone over the age of 18 who is or may need community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and is or may be unable to take care of or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.
- The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- All children and vulnerable adults without exception, have the right to protection from abuse and for their rights, feelings and views to be respected.
- Allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

In line with these principles the Parish Council will aim to:

- Create a healthy and safe environment for all activities, where children and vulnerable adults feel safe and secure.
- Promote the general welfare, health and full development of children and vulnerable adults during activities on Council premises.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and vulnerable adults and protect them from abuse.
- Respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children and vulnerable adults and ensure that they are listened to.
- Ensure that any allegations made are not allowed to go unchallenged, and that any allegations and suspicions are investigated, recorded and acted upon promptly.
- Ensure that councillors, staff and volunteers are well informed, maintain high standards and observe best practice.
- Ensure that all new councillors/employees/volunteers who will work with, or come into contact with, children and vulnerable adults in the course of their work activities are required where appropriate to be subject to checks under the current Data Barring Scheme
- Ensure that all new councillors/employees/volunteers where appropriate will be provided with training and a signed copy of this policy to confirm that they understand it and will abide by it.

- The Parish Council will ensure that procedures are put in place to enable the aims of the Parish Council to be met and to initiate appropriate action should any allegation of improper conduct be made.
- All hirers using council facilities that provide activities or services for children and vulnerable adults other than for private hire for family & friends will be asked to produce a child protection policy or adopt the Parish Council's policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually or in line with any changes in legislation, as advised by the clerk to the council.

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