

Bacton Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

Adopted: Minute reference:

Policy Statement

The policy is in place in order for Bacton Parish Council to work to prevent abuse and know what to do should a concern arise. The policy will enable Bacton Parish Council to:

- Promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm and abuse occurring.
- Ensure that any allegations or abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing the abuse is supported.

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk.

This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Parish Council facilities.

This Policy will be reviewed regularly.

Definitions

Children and young people: Anyone under the age of 18 years

Adult at risk:

Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- Or may be in need of community care services

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of the Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, for example contracted to do a piece of work. It also applies to any individual hiring, leasing or using the Parish Council facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or adults at risk.

Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and adults at risk, the Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and do regular safety assessments.
- Ensure that employees, councillors and leaders of activities in parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.

Allegations against staff and volunteers

All staff and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or an adult at risk.

It is advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

If an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Clerk,

If the allegation is made against the Clerk, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of the Parish Council.

No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with the Local Authority. See contact details below.

Whistleblowing

We recognise that children or adults at risk 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 or colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the Safeguarding Teams at Suffolk County Council.

What should be a cause for concern

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or adult at risk. A child or adult at risk 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

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

All staff and volunteers need to have an awareness that there are many forms of abuse ranging from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Staff and volunteers who engage with children or adults at risk will have accessed appropriate training.

Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on Suffolk County Council's website.