



Kingsnorth Parish Council

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

It is a legal requirement for any organisation working with young children or vulnerable adults (V. As) to ensure that there are procedures in place, which, as much as possible, provide for their safety.

Purpose

- To state the role of Kingsnorth Parish Council (the Parish Council) in child and vulnerable adult protection.
- To ensure, as well as reasonably practicable, that facilities provided by the Parish Council for play and recreation by children are safe in every respect.
- To ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to safeguard the well-being of children and vulnerable adult.
- To ensure that the community is aware of its responsibilities regarding safeguarding children and vulnerable adult.

Scope

This policy covers:

- Children and vulnerable adults. The word "child/ren" in this document implies vulnerable adults, too.
- Parish Councillors; their staff; contractors; any volunteers working for the Council; and members of the community
- Recreation facilities provided by the Council for the benefit of parishioners

Every staff member, volunteer or councillor who supports activities involving young people or vulnerable adults has a duty of care to themselves and to others and should familiarise themselves with the procedures relating to this policy.

Introduction

Related documents:

Health and Safety Policy
Equality and Diversity Policy

Legal:

Human Rights Act 1998
Children Act 1989
Children Act 2004
The Care Act 2014

Definitions

A child is any person under the age of eighteen years.

A vulnerable adult is anyone over 18 who is:

- unable to care for themselves
- unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- or may need community care services

Policy

Principles:

This Policy establishes the following principles:

- All children and other vulnerable people have the right to protection from harm
- Everyone in the community has a duty to respond to concerns about child safety
- Adults should be protected from false accusation of harming children
- All reasonable suspicions and allegations of harm must be taken seriously and acted upon appropriately

Responsibilities

Kingsnorth Parish Council does not work directly with children. The Council operates, or has a formal interest in, places set aside for play and recreation by children and others, and has a duty, as far as reasonably practicable, to ensure that such places are safe for that purpose.

Procedure

Responsible Officer

The Parish Manager will be the responsible officer for all Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding issues and any activities undertaken by the Parish Council which are likely to involve these people should be reported to The Parish Manager prior to their commencement.

Parish Council

The Parish Council shall ensure that this Policy is:

- Always implemented
- kept up to date to reflect new legislation and social needs

Confidentiality

It is important to ensure confidentiality about any suspicions, or allegations being made by a child or V.A. Whilst it is recommended that notes are made as soon as possible these should be treated in confidence until required by investigating authorities.

Facilities

The Council shall ensure its facilities provided for play and recreation shall be:

- maintained to approved safety standards
- inspected regularly both locally and by an approved, independent auditor.

Users of facilities

Organisations using our recreation facilities shall demonstrate before any agreement is made to use them that:

- activity leaders have currently valid qualification(s) to interact with children and have a valid DBS Certificate.
- the organisation has in place an acceptable Child Protection Policy.

Ad hoc use of facilities by children shall be deemed to be sanctioned by their parents.

Use of facilities by loosely associated groups of people (e.g. parties) shall be with there formal acceptance of responsibility for child safety.

Contractors

The Parish Council shall provide contractors employed to maintain its facilities with a copy of this Policy and remind them of the need to ensure that they conduct their work in a manner that will obviate accusation of harming children in the vicinity. This requirement will form part of any contract. This requirement shall cascade to sub-contractors.

The Community

The Parish Council shall publicise the need, and encourage all members of the community, to recognise that each has a responsibility to contribute to child safety either:

- directly during organised activity
- by exercising parental choice or
- by responding to concerns about safety.

The Parish Council also recognises the potential for false allegation against adults, whether intentionally or from excessive zeal, and shall include in its public statements on child protection the need for adults to avoid situations that could be misinterpreted.

Responding to allegations or suspicions

Anyone who has concerns about possible improper behaviour towards a child or vulnerable adult shall not delay in reporting it. The Parish Council is not a "point of contact" for reporting suspicions of improper behaviour. If such information is received, then the recipient shall advise the reporter to contact the appropriate authority via the Police 101 number (and may do so also, in the interests of safety).

Concerns about general safety of facilities shall be reported to the Parish Council in the normal way.

Report an incident or concern

The police 101 number reaches the appropriate organisation very quickly. It is manned 24 hours a day. This method for reporting concerns about child safety shall be advertised along with any Council advice on the subject.

Additional information/Support

If anyone has concerns about Child Protection or V.A. issues additional support is available from:

Kent County Council Social Services – 0845 603 5630

Kent County Council Youth Development – 0845 603 5620

This policy will be kept up to date as the size and nature of the council changes and as new legislation is introduced.