

ASHWELL PARISH COUNCIL: SAFEGUARDING POLICY (CHILD, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS)

Approval date: 02 October 2024

Provision to refer (*applicable to all relevant policies, procedures, etc.*): The option to refer to external parties for advice and/or determination where this is appropriate. The default being HAPTC and/or the body that created a model document.

Review date (*applicable to all relevant policies, procedures, etc.*): Following the election of a new council or when agreed to be necessary or prompted by external bodies.

Policy Statement

Ashwell Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

Policy Objective

To ensure where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults. To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation. To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints. As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children, young people or vulnerable adults, it expects all children using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.

Definitions

Adult safeguarding: Adult safeguarding is the term used for protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect. Safeguarding relates to the need to protect people over the age of eighteen who may be in vulnerable circumstances. These are adults in need of care and support who may be at risk of abuse or neglect, due to the actions (or lack of action) of another person. An adult at risk is defined as: "A person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and is or may be unable to take care of or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation". In Hertfordshire local services work together to identify people at risk, put measures in place to help prevent abuse or neglect, and to protect people. Hertfordshire County Council has the lead responsibility to coordinate the investigation of possible or actual abuse and ensure that measures are in place to prevent further abuse taking place.

Children's safeguarding: A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years. Safeguarding children is defined in [Working together to safeguard children](#) as:

- protecting children from maltreatment,
- preventing impairment of children's health or development,
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care,
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Ashwell Parish Council should any safeguarding concern arise during their work.

Responsibilities & Procedures

The safeguarding Officer will be the Parish Clerk whose responsibilities will include:

1. Ensuring that before any Parish Council organised event, or events/activities organised by others on Parish Council property, with children, young people or vulnerable adults, appropriate measures are put in place either directly by the Parish Council's safeguarding Officer or by a nominated person(s) of the organisers for that event/activity and this to be confirmed as part of the required risk assessment. This to include, for example, children's sports clubs using the Recreation Ground & pavilion, pre-school activities at The Springs, Village Sports Day, etc.
2. Ensuring that members are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties.
3. Ensuring that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of the risk they face.
4. Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by the Council.
5. Councillors will adhere to the 'list of recommended behaviour' namely: Not to play physical contact games; Adults to wear appropriate clothing at all times; Ensure accidents are recorded in an accident book; Never do anything of a personal nature to a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
6. Keep records in an incident book of any allegations a child, young person or vulnerable adult may make to any committee member or volunteer and ensure that the safeguarding officer is informed. The Incident book to be presented to the Parish Council full meeting for inspection.

Training

All staff, councillors and volunteers of the Parish Council should receive appropriate training in adults and children's safeguarding matters according to their role -see Responsibilities item 1 above.

Reporting process

If any abuse to a child, young person or vulnerable adult is observed or reported to the Parish Council, Councillor, visitor or volunteer, it should be reported to the safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board also refer to the Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment. To report a safeguarding concern to Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board, either click on the link below or contact them on 0300 123 4042 (24 hours a day)

[Report a concern about an adult | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

To report a safeguarding concern to Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership you can click on the link below, or contact them on 0300 123 4043

[Report concerns about a child or request support | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Relevant facilities offered by the Parish Council have been inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation. In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children, young people and vulnerable adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their safeguarding policies.

Declaration

Ashwell Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children, young people, and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect. All members of Ashwell Parish Council should read the Council's child's, young people and vulnerable adults policy. Having read the policy they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults who are involved in Parish Council activities.

Contact Parish Clerk -see above.