

# Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

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## **General principles:**

- Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered to be a child
- The Care Act (2014) defines safeguarding as "protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect". Adult safeguarding duties apply to an adult who: —
  - has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and
  - is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse and neglect and
  - as a result of their care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from the risk or experience of abuse and neglect.
- 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

## **Purpose of the Policy**

This policy will provide a framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The policy aims to ensure that:

- Children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from harm.
- Councillors, staff and volunteers are aware of expected behaviours and their legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

## **Policy Statement**

This policy outlines procedures and good practice within Bourton Parish Council and has been developed in line with legislation and government guidance.

Bourton Parish Council takes seriously its legal responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom it is working. The Council will work with other agencies to ensure that there are adequate arrangements in place to protect and support those in danger of harm.

Bourton Parish Council accepts its responsibility to ensure that effective safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and has appointed a Safeguarding Lead who will deal with all safeguarding issues.

Bourton Parish Council recognises that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole community and will seek to ensure this is recognised within the community of Bourton.

### **Individual responsibilities.**

Bourton Parish Council recognises that safeguarding is not restricted to deliberate harm but includes health and safety, first aid and meeting the needs of those with medical conditions. The Council recognises that safeguarding can include a wide range of issues such as bullying, cyberbullying, racist and homophobic bullying as well as extremist behaviour and radicalisation.

Bourton Parish Council accepts that the prevailing attitude should be 'it can happen here' and this underpins our approach.

Procedures to be followed if abuse is disclosed are:

- Stay calm and listen carefully.
- Reassure the person that they have done the right thing in making a disclosure.
- Do not investigate or ask leading questions.
- Make clear that the Safeguarding Lead for Bourton Parish Council must be informed.
- On no account suggest that the disclosure can remain a secret.
- Inform the named Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible who will take further action including alerting social services.
- Make a written record of the allegation as soon as possible including the nature of the allegation, whether the complaint is being made by a victim or a witness. Include details of names, addresses and phone numbers. If the family is aware of an allegation, make this clear in your report.
- Maintain strict confidentiality and give your report to the Bourton Parish Council Safeguarding Lead who will take action.

Sign and date your report and do not make copies.

### **Confidentiality and sharing information.**

Bourton Parish Council recognises that all matters relating to safeguarding are confidential. Disclosure will be on a 'need to know' basis only.

The Council fully accepts their responsibilities to share information with other appropriate professional agencies.

Bourton Parish Council will make use of the Disclosure and Barring Service when appointing staff or using volunteers who will be in contact with any of the vulnerable groups identified in this policy.

If historic abuse is reported to the Council, the procedures outlined in this document will be followed.

Lead Councillor/Officer:	Eve Wynn
Adopted On:	March 2021
Date of Next Review:	May 2024