

Long Compton

Parish Council

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Policy Owner	Sara Billins
Date Ratified	10/2/2022
Review Date	Annual
Next Review	Feb 2023

1. Introduction

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

1. The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities should protect children and vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

   Long Compton Parish Council is committed to ensuring the safety of all users of our facilities and take our responsibilities seriously.

   This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for:

- Long Compton parish councillors
- Those using parish council assets/facilities
- 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.

All councillors will sign annually to confirm that they have read and understood the policy.

2. Definitions

a) Children and young people:

We all have a responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; this is defined as:

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

This definition has been taken from statutory guidance, **Working Together 2018 and the Children & Social Work Act 2017** which specifies inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

b) Vulnerable Adults:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable adults over the age of 18 applies to anyone who is:

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

3. What should be a cause for concern?

Councillors, volunteers, and those working on behalf of the parish council should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harm the physical and/or emotional development of a child.

Abuse falls into four main categories:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect
5. Financial Abuse/Manipulation

This can include child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation, referred to as FGM, modern slavery and the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults for the purposes of drug trafficking also known as 'cuckooing' and 'County Lines'.

4. Long Compton Parish Council: Our Commitment

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

- Provide safe facilities and do regular safety assessments.
- Ensure that councillors, employees, and leaders of activities using parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Ensure that any adult who has regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults on Parish Council land undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service checks before commencement.
- Display on village notice boards the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help. A copy will also be made available on the Parish Council website.

5. Disclosure and Barring Service Checks

a) Councillors, employees and volunteers who may have substantial unsupervised access to children, young people and vulnerable adults must undertake Disclosure & Barring Service checks. At present Long Compton Parish Council does not identify anybody to whom this applies.

b) The Council acknowledges that although certain members may consult or work with groups of children and young people, it is unlikely that this is carried out alone or without parental supervision and as such it does not deem it necessary for its members to undertake Disclosure & Barring Service checks. However, councillors should understand and comply with the information in this policy regarding good working practices.

c) Parishioners need to be satisfied that staff employed by the Parish Council or those using Parish Council assets who may have access to children do so on a safe basis.

d)

6. Photography/Filming for Parish Purposes

No photographs/films of children may be used on the parish council website or for other publicity purposes without the written permission of a parent. Not doing so may make families vulnerable if e.g. they are escaping from domestic abuse.

7. Referring Concerns about Children or Vulnerable Adults

- Any concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty should be referred to **Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door)** immediately by calling **01926 414144**. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm.

- For referrals out of usual office hours contact the **Emergency Duty Team** on **01926 886922**.

- If you think that **a child is at immediate risk**, contact the Police immediately by calling **999**.

Where an adult is:

- Unable to look after themselves, due to the level of their care and support needs, and
- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect

Contact **Adult Social Care** on: **01926 412080**. The adult social care teams can offer advice and support and, where necessary, arrange appropriate services.

8. Managing Allegations

All Parish Councillors, its employees and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. It is advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults where possible.

The Parish Council should follow the procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers on the Warwickshire Safeguarding website.

https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/i-work-with-children-and-young-people/allegations-against-people-who-work-with-children-young-people

No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with the Warwickshire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). See contact details below.

Tel: 01926 745376**.** **Email:** lado@warwickshire.gov.uk

9. Whistleblowing

All Parish staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO or Safeguarding Team as to how to handle such allegations. The Parish Council must not make a judgement on whether the allegations have merit for further investigation, this decision must be for the LADO team.

10. PREVENT Strategy

PREVENT was set up to challenge all forms of terrorism, including the influence of far right and far left extremists. It defines extremism as "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs".

The Prevent Strategy has three key objectives:

1. Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
2. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
3. Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

Prevent operates in a pre-criminal space, providing support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being groomed into terrorist activities before any crimes are committed. Radicalisation could be comparable to other forms of harm and abuse. It is therefore considered a safeguarding issue and thought of alongside the wider safeguarding agenda.

Any worries or concerns should be referred to Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police Prevent officers on prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk.

Information and support can be accessed from the **Local Authority Prevent Officer** – Geoff Thomas on **01926 412432** or from the **Community Safety Team on** 01926 412338

In an emergency, call 999.

Training

https://www.somethingsnotright.co.uk/

https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html