

Waterbeach Parish Council

Child and Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy

Policy adopted on 5 January 2016

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 adults at risk is paramount
- All children and adults at risk 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

In line with these principles the Parish Council will aim to:

- Create a healthy and safe environment for all activities, where children and adults at risk feel safe and secure
- Promote the general welfare, health and full development of children and adults at risk during activities on Council premises
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and adults at risk and protect them from abuse
- Respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children and adults at risk and ensure that they are listened to
- Ensure that any allegations made are not allowed to go unchallenged, and that any allegations and suspicions are investigated, recorded and acted upon promptly
- Ensure that councillors, staff and volunteers are well informed, maintain high standards and observe best practice

- Ensure that all new and existing councillors/employees/volunteers who will work with, or come into contact with, children and adults at risk in the course of their work activities are required where appropriate to be subject to checks under the current Data Barring Scheme
- Ensure that all new and existing councillors/employees/volunteers where appropriate will be provided with training and a signed copy of this policy to confirm that they understand it and will abide by it
- The Parish Council will ensure that procedures are put in place to enable the aims of the Parish Council to be met and to initiate appropriate action should any allegation of improper conduct be made
- All hirers using council facilities that provide activities or services for children and adults at risk other than for private hire for family & friends will be asked to produce a child protection policy or adopt the Parish Council's policy

This policy will be reviewed at intervals or in line with any changes in legislation as advised by the clerk to the council.