

# Dunchideock Parish Council

## Safeguarding Policy 2020

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- 1.2 This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults in any Dunchideock Parish Council activity or context.
- 1.3 This policy will be reviewed at least on a two yearly basis.

### **2 Definitions**

- 2.1 Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18 years.
- 2.2 Vulnerable adult: 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.

### **3 To whom this policy applies**

- 3.1 This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Dunchideock Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

### **4 Promoting a safe environment**

- 4.1 In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Dunchideock Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture:
  - in any premises or facilities it owns, uses or controls,
  - any activity with which it is involved in promoting and/or
  - in any contact with members of the public.
- 4.2 In order to achieve this, Dunchideock Parish Council will:
  - provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
  - ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations
  - make available on public noticeboards and to employees and councillors relevant contact details (see point 5 below).
- 4.3 Employees, councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the authorities as detailed below as soon as possible.

### **5 Allegations against staff, councillors and volunteers**

- 5.1 All employees, councillors and volunteers must take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.
- 5.2 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the relevant agencies (contact details below).

#### *Concerns about children:*

Devon Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 0345 155 1071

#### *Concerns about adults:*

Devon – Care Direct: 0345 155 1007

*Domestic Abuse:*

Devon helpline for professionals and individuals: 0345 155 1074

*Rape Crisis:*

- National: 0808 802 9999
- Devon and Torbay: 01392 204174

*Children who want to speak to someone about any concerns:*

Childline: 0800 11 11

***Always call 999 in an emergency – for example when someone’s life is at risk or someone is seriously injured or critically ill.***

## **6 Whistleblowing**

- 6.1 We recognise that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.
- 6.2 All staff, councillors 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 relevant Safeguarding teams at Devon County Council.

## **7 What should be a cause for concern**

- 7.1 Staff, councillors and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or a vulnerable adult. A child or vulnerable adult may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and their peers, and abuse can occur in any family OR in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location.
- 7.2 Abuse falls into four main categories:
  - physical abuse
  - emotional abuse
  - sexual abuse
  - financial abuse
  - neglect
- 7.3 All staff, councillors and volunteers need to have an awareness that there are many other forms of abuse ranging from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- 7.4 Ideally staff, councillors and volunteers who engage with children or vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training.
- 7.5 Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council websites.