

POLICY TITLE

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

REVISION DATE

September 2019

POLICY AIM

- To protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive or use Council run services or facilities (this includes the children of adults who use Council services or facilities)
- To provide, staff, volunteers and Councillors with overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Skegness Town Council believes that children, young people and vulnerable adults should be protected from abuse. This policy seeks to ensure that all staff, volunteers and Councillors work together, and act promptly when dealing with allegations or suspicions of abuse.

We think that:

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS - Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. We will work together to prevent and minimise abuse. If we have concerns that someone is being abused, our loyalty to the vulnerable person comes before anything else – our Council, other service users, our colleagues and the person's friends and family.

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION - If we know or suspect that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is being abused, we will do something about it and ensure our work is properly recorded.

POLICY STATEMENT

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other persons(s) or group of people. Abuse may be single or repeated acts. It can be:

Physical: for example, hitting, slapping, burning, pushing, restraining or giving the wrong medication.

Psychological and emotional: for example, shouting, swearing, frightening, blaming, ignoring or humiliating a person, threats of harm or abandonment, intimidation, verbal abuse.

Financial: including the illegal or unauthorised use of a person's property, money, pension book or other valuables, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance.

Sexual: such as forcing a person to take part in any sexual activity without his or her informed consent – this can occur in any relationship.

Discriminatory: including racist or sexist remarks or comments based on a person's disability, age or illness, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment. This also includes stopping someone from being involved in religious or cultural activity, services or support networks;

Institutional: the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to vulnerable people. This includes a failure to ensure the necessary

safeguards are in place to protect vulnerable adults and maintain good standards of care in accordance with individual needs, including training of staff, supervision and management, record keeping and liaising with other providers of care.

Neglect and acts of omission: including ignoring medical or physical care needs. These can be deliberate or unintentional, amounting to abuse by a carer or self-neglect by the vulnerable person: for example, where a person is deprived of food, heat, clothing, comfort or essential medication, or failing to provide access to appropriate health or social care services.

How Might We Notice Abuse?

Concerns about or evidence of abuse can come to us through:

1. A direct disclosure by the child, young person or vulnerable adult.
2. A complaint or expression of concern by another member of staff, a volunteer, another service user, a carer, a member of the public or relative.
3. An observation of the behaviour of the child, young person or vulnerable adult by the volunteer, member of staff or carer.

Our Commitment

To support children, young people or vulnerable adults who are experiencing, or at risk from, abuse, Skegness Town Council is committed to:

- Identifying the abuse of children, young people or vulnerable adults where it is occurring.
- Responding effectively to any circumstances giving grounds for concern, or where formal complaints or expressions of anxiety are expressed.
- Ensuring the active participation of individuals, families, groups and communities wherever possible and appropriate.
- Raising awareness of the extent of abuse on vulnerable adults and its impact on them.
- Promoting and supporting work designed to reduce abuse and the fear of abuse as experienced by children, young people or vulnerable adults
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating how our policies, procedures and practices for protecting children, young people or vulnerable adults are working.
- Making sure our policies, procedures and practices stay up to date with good practice and the law.
- Ensuring our procedures are in line with other agencies we may work with.

Prevention and Confidentiality

All those working directly with or supporting children, young people or vulnerable adults, will provide current Disclosure and Barring Service clearance, have two references provided and undertake safeguarding training before they will have direct contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults or their carers.

All staff, volunteers and Councillors will be requested to read Skegness Town Council's Safeguarding Policy.

Skegness Town Council will work with children, young people or vulnerable adults in a way that meets all the aspects of confidentiality in our different policies, but where abuse to a child or vulnerable person is alleged, suspected, reported or concerns are raised, the Safeguarding Procedure must be followed. The confidentiality of the vulnerable person will

be respected wherever possible and their consent obtained to share information. The vulnerable person should be made aware that staff cannot ignore issues around abuse and that steps will be taken to deal with them in as sensitive a manner as possible. The welfare of the individual is paramount.

High Level Procedure

1. You think abuse has or may have occurred. Act immediately. Make sure the person is safe. Inform your line manager immediately. Contact the police if it is thought a crime has just been committed. Record details of the allegation.
2. Bringing the concern to the attention of Your Manager who in turn will contact Lincolnshire Social Services or the Police. Your manager discusses the concerns with the local authority referral agency or the police straight away.
3. Social Services will coordinate an investigation. They might decide to call the police. You might need to give a statement to Social Services or the police. Social services or the police will decide what to do next.

In accordance with the law, the Council will refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) any member of staff

- Who was dismissed because they harmed a child or adult;
- Who was dismissed or removed from working in a regulated activity because they might have harmed a child or adult;
- Who would have been dismissed for either of these reasons, but they resigned first; or
- Who works with children or vulnerable adults in a regulated activity and has been cautioned or convicted for a relevant offence.

Safeguarding concerns and allegations relating to Councillors will be referred to the Monitoring Officer and dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct of Members of the Council.

IMPLEMENTATION

Consideration of this policy will be taken into account within other policies and procedures, and when developing new services or facilities.

Any staff member, volunteer or Councillor specifically working with children, young people or vulnerable adults will be given a copy of the policy and procedure

MONITORING

The policy will be monitored in the following ways:

MONITORING ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
The number of activations under this policy will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Management Committee under Risk Management	Deputy Town Clerk/Town Clerk

When/if the activities of the Council change to involve working directly with children or vulnerable adults

Deputy Town Clerk/Town Clerk

POLICY CONSULTATION

None

POLICY APPROVAL

Wednesday 2nd October 2019

POLICY REVIEW DATE

October 2022