

Woodchurch Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy



WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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Revised Safeguarding Policy

(superseding the Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy 2010)

POLICY STATEMENT

WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO THE HEALTH, WELL BEING AND SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 AND VULNERABLE ADULTS WHO ARE EITHER VOLUNTEERING, WORKING IN OR VISITING THE SERVICE.

None of the activities of Woodchurch Parish Council involves any member of staff or Councillor coming into direct contact with children or vulnerable adults during the course of their normal activities.

However, all members are asked to remember that it is their responsibility to ensure that:

- Their behaviour is appropriate at all times
- They observe the rules established for the safety and security of young and vulnerable people
- They follow the procedures in the event of suspicion, disclosure or allegation of abuse
- They recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed

In the event of their being approached by a member of the public, young person, child, or vulnerable adult on any matter concerning any person visiting or engaging with the service, a Code of Behaviour is detailed below. It is essential that members adhere to it.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR COUNCILLORS

Councillors should

- Put this Code into practice at all times
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Set an example they would wish others to follow
- Treat all people equally
- Ensure more than one other adult is present at all times when dealing with a young person or vulnerable adult
- Advise young people or vulnerable adult who they can talk to, if asked, about any concerns they may have
- Make everyone aware of the organisation's safeguarding procedures, as outlined in this policy:
- Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned
- Take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer to the Parish Council (or its Standing committees)
- Not trivialise any reports of abuse
- Not let allegations, suspicions or concerns about abuse go unreported
- Not just rely on your good name to protect you.

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SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Woodchurch Parish Council provides the services of a typical local Council including an office facility and as a body corporate, represents the people of Woodchurch Parish. All children and young people under 18 visiting the office and/or using the services of the Council remain the responsibility of their parents or guardians whilst doing so, including, but not exclusively, the Play Area and Fitness facility on The Green. Any concerns regarding the safety and/or wellbeing of children or vulnerable adults in relation to the project should be reported immediately to Kent County Council via :-

For a child or adult

Use the online form on kent.gov.uk

For a child

03000 41 11 11 (text relay 18001 03000 41 11 11) or email social.services@kent.gov.uk

For Vulnerable adult

03000 41 61 61 (text relay 18001 03000 41 61 61) or email social.services@kent.gov.uk

Or, where applicable: The Council via the Councillor nominated to deal with safeguarding.

Out Of Hours (eg during the night) - 03000 41 91 91

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MEMBER OF WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL IN THE EVENT OF A CONCERN BEING REPORTED TO THEM

- Follow the relevant parts of the code of behaviour
- Report concerns to the responsible person (if one nominated)
- The responsible person will report any issues to the relevant authority (KCC) immediately.
- Members to call 999 for emergency services immediately if they suspect someone may be in immediate danger

OTHER REFERENCES

Members can visit the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi Agency Partnership website for more information if they are worried about a child, domestic abuse, missing children, online safety, exploitation, child sexual abuse and knife awareness - kscmp.org.uk

Or contact kscmp@kent.gov.uk

Revision by Cllr Rob Woods - Lead member - Finance and Policy
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