

WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

1. THE POLICY

Werrington Neighbourhood Council has a duty of care to safeguard all children and young people involved in their activities. This safeguarding policy outlines how that duty of care will be exercised to those under 18 years of age. The policy is also intended to protect vulnerable adults. The term 'vulnerable adult' is defined as any person over the age of 18 in need of community care services because of mental disability, age or illness, who may not be able to take care of themselves or be unable to protect themselves against significant harm.

1.1 PRINCIPLES

With regard to children, young people and vulnerable adults, Werrington Neighbourhood Council recognises that:

- the welfare of the individual is paramount
- all children, young people and vulnerable adults whatever their culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse, in whatever form, will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- all adults involved have a responsibility to report concerns to an appropriate person

1.2 AIMS

- to provide children, young people and vulnerable adults with appropriate safety and protection
- to protect volunteers against accusations of inappropriate behaviour

1.3 ACTIONS

We will endeavour to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by:

- Ensuring that any volunteer or member of staff acting on behalf of Werrington Community Association and undertaking any regulated activities have the appropriate DBS check
- Providing any necessary support for volunteers or members of staff

1.4 DESIGNATED PERSON FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Werrington Neighbourhood Council will provide a Designated Person who will have lead responsibility for issues relating to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. The current designated person is Sally Weald who can be contacted on 01733 570301 weald38@gmail.com

Whenever a case is referred to the Designated Person, they will discuss the case with the Chair of Werrington Neighbourhood Council and report to the Council as appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed in the light of changes in legislation, in the event of any concerns being raised and, in any event every 3 years.

2.0 SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT CONCERNS, WITH AGENCIES WHO NEED TO KNOW, AND INVOLVING CHILDREN AND PARENTS APPROPRIATELY

2.1 Procedure for reporting allegations or suspicions of abuse or inappropriate behaviour

In any case where an allegation is made, or someone has concerns, a record should be made and details passed on to and discussed with the Designated Person. As far as practicable, the details in the pro forma attached as Appendix A should be recorded. The Designated Person will discuss the allegation with the parent/person with parental responsibility for the child, young person or vulnerable adult and decide what action is to be taken.

2.2 Handling disclosure of abuse or inappropriate behaviour

- Never guarantee absolute confidentiality, as safeguarding children and vulnerable adults will always have precedence over any other issues and this may mean passing on information to an appropriate body such as Social Services, the Police or the Independent Safeguarding Authority.
- Listen to the child, rather than question him or her directly. Offer him/her reassurance without making promises, and take what they say seriously.
- Allow the child to speak without interruption. Accept what is said, it is not your role to investigate or question. Do not overreact.
- Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement
- Advise that you will try to offer support, but that you must pass the information on. Explain what you have to do and whom you have to tell.
- Record the discussion accurately, as soon as possible after the event. Use the child's words or explanations, do not translate onto your own words, in case you have misconstrued what the child was trying to say.
- Contact the Designated Person for advice/guidance. The Designated Person may then discuss the concern/suspicion with the relevant professional organisation, and, if appropriate, make a direct referral (see Appendix C)
- If the Designated Person is not available, or it is inappropriate to approach them, the person with the concern should make direct contact with the relevant professional organisation themselves.
- Record any discussions or actions taken within 24 hours. (see Appendix A)

Signed: Date: 2/2/17

Print Name: WACE MOON Position: CHAIR

Signed: Date: 2/7/17

Print Name: SALLY WEAVER Position: SECRETARY

Appendix A
PRO FORMA FOR REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

- Name of child or young person
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- Age
- Home address (if known)
- Date of Birth (if known)
- Name/s and Address of parent/s or person/s with parental responsibility
- Telephone numbers if available
- Is the person making the report expressing their own concerns, or passing on those of somebody else? If so, record details
- What has prompted the concerns?
- Include dates and times of any specific incidents
- Has the child or young person been spoken to?
- If so what was said?
- Has anybody been alleged to be the abuser?
- If so record details
- Who has this been passed on to, in order that appropriate action is taken?
- Has anyone else been consulted?
- If so, record details

Appendix B: CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND MEMBERS

Statement of Intent

Werrington Neighbourhood Council has adopted a Safeguarding Policy to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults by protecting them from all forms of abuse including physical, emotional and sexual harm.

Guidelines for volunteers and staff members

- Volunteers and staff members will treat children, young people and vulnerable adults with respect and dignity.
- Volunteers and staff members will not engage in inappropriate physical contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults. This includes contact that is unwelcome to the person concerned.
- Volunteers and staff members should:
 - Be aware that someone might misinterpret their actions no matter how well intentioned
 - Not draw any conclusions about others without checking the facts
 - Take reports of potential abuse seriously and take appropriate action as outlined in the Safeguarding Policy

Appendix C USEFUL CONTACTS

Peterborough Children's Services 01733 864180 & 01733 864170

Out of Hours - Emergency Duty Team 01733 234724

Police Child Protection Team 101

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children 24 Hour Help line Tel 0800 800 5000

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board 01733 863744 www.peterborough.lscb.org.uk