

# WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

### Policy Statement

Everybody has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults, who are or may be at risk of abuse or neglect. Werrington Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

### Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to protect and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, using or receiving services provided or commissioned by Werrington Parish Council, and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation.

### Definitions

- Safeguarding – *protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from ill-treatment and harm.*
- Abuse – *Forms of ill treatment, including neglect. Somebody by abuse a child or adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. The most common types of abuse are physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect.*
- Children and young people – *anyone under 18 years of age.*
- Vulnerable adult – *has needs for care and/or support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs). They may be experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect, or the risk of it.*
- Employees, Parish Councillors and Contractors – *anyone working for, or on behalf of Werrington Parish Council, whether paid or voluntary.*

### Taking Responsibility for Safeguarding

Councillors, employees and volunteers may notice something which causes them concern when out and about in the area. It is not our role to investigate any signs of abuse. However, we do have a responsibility to act if we have any concerns and alert those who can look into any such issues. To take responsibility for safeguarding the council will:

- Identify someone within Werrington Parish Council who will take lead responsibility for safeguarding, ensuring that councillors and employees understand what safeguarding means, what to look out for and how to pass on any concerns.
- Follow safe recruitment practices, including application forms, references and induction.
- Identify and meet training needs for those councillors and employees who come into contact with children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that councillors and employees who come into regular unsupervised contact with children and/or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- Require that external organisations working with or on behalf of the council who have contact with children and vulnerable adults have a Safeguarding policy and procedures.

- Ensure that where Werrington Parish Council hires facilities to external groups for use with children and/or vulnerable adults, and parents/carers are not present, the group will have their own Safeguarding policy or agree to work to those of the council.

Councillors, employees and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction which harms a child or vulnerable adult. If they are unsure whether this needs to be reported as a safeguarding concern, they should seek the advice of the person within the Parish Council with lead responsibility.

### **Contact information for making a referral regarding a safeguarding concern**

For all child protection issues contact Staffordshire County Council's  
First Response Team based at the MASH on

**0800 1313 126**

**(Between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am and 4.30 pm on a Friday)**

Or via a brief e-mail

[firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk)

To make an Adult Protection referral advice should be sought from the  
Adult Protection Contact Centre

**0345 604 2719**

**(Between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am and 4.30 pm on a Friday).**

### **Outside of office hours**

Any concerns relating to a child or adult at risk of abuse and neglect should be directed to  
Staffordshire County Council

**Emergency Duty Service on  
0345 604 2886.**

Alternatively contact

Staffordshire Police Central Referral Unit on

**101**

Or dial

**999 in an emergency.**