

Shirland and Higham Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy 2024/2025

The Council does not organise any activities for children, young people or vulnerable adults. However it does provide facilities for others to organise activities for children and young people and so has an overarching duty of care which it exercises by requiring organisers to have good safeguarding practices in place and by maintaining a general overview on all activities taking place in Council facilities.

1. Statement of commitment

Shirland and Higham Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council.

2. Policy statement

Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered to be a child and the welfare of the child is paramount. All children and young people, without exception, have the right to live in safety, without emotional cruelty, neglect, violence, or sexual abuse. Suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately and reported for investigation to the Derbyshire Safeguarding Board or the Police as felt appropriate.

3. Aims

3.1 In line with this policy the Council aims to provide a healthy and safe environment so that children, young people and vulnerable adults feel safe and secure whenever taking part in any activities on Council premises.

3.2 The Council aims to ensure that all organisations using Council facilities promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to protect them from abuse.

3.3 The Council aims to ensure that all organisations and individuals using or working at Council facilities respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children and young people and ensure that they are listened to.

3.4 The Council aims to ensure that any allegations made by a child or vulnerable adult are taken seriously and that any allegations and suspicions are investigated by Derbyshire Safeguarding Board or the Police, as appropriate.

4. Implications

4.1 Councillors are expected to consider safeguarding issues whenever pertinent in formulating policy and making decisions.

4.2 Council staff are expected to understand this policy and be vigilant about the general treatment of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

4.3 Volunteers working with the Council are requested to acquaint themselves with the policy and report any concerns to the Council's Safeguarding Officer.

4.4 Organisations using Council facilities are expected to have in place sufficient safeguarding procedures to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in their activities.

4.5 Contractors engaged by the Council expected to have in place appropriate safeguarding procedures.

5. The Council's Safeguarding Officer is the Clerk to the Council.

Adopted: March 2024

For Review: March 2025