



CHILD PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY

Cranleigh Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

Definitions

- A child is a person under 18 years of age (The Children Act 1989).
- A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation". (Department of Health definition).

To whom this policy applies

- This policy applies to Parish Councillors and anyone working for or on behalf of the Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, for example contracted to do a piece of work.
- It also applies to any individual using the Parish Council facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding

The Council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons, in that:

- The welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount.
- All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff, volunteers and elected members of the Council have a responsibility to report concerns to the Clerk.
- All staff, volunteers and elected members of the Council are not to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred. Abuse includes any action or inaction which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or vulnerable adult. Abuse falls into four main categories:
 - Physical Abuse
 - Emotional Abuse
 - Sexual Abuse
 - Neglect

Duty of Care

- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out in accordance with the eligibility criteria in the Rehabilitations of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.
- Cranleigh Parish Council has a duty of care to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes including risk assessment and health & safety practices.
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- Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff or Councillor must be referred immediately to the Clerk who will refer the matter to Social Services at Surrey County Council for investigation.

You must refer; you must not investigate

Cranleigh Parish Council Safeguarding procedures

- Enhanced Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) checks will be carried out on the ground staff, as they can work unsupervised in the Snoxhall Fields play park and Council properties. In line with best practice, these checks will be repeated every four years.
- There is a specific Youth Council safeguarding Policy.
- Councillors, volunteers and other members of staff will not be subject to DBS checks unless there is a change in the Council duties which requires regular contact with children and vulnerable people.
- No member of the Parish Council, staff, helpers or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children and vulnerable adult, unless appropriately vetted.
- All members of staff, helpers and volunteers will be made aware of this policy and the relevant procedures. Relevant training in this area will be provided.
- Hirers of our facilities are made aware of our Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Policy and where appropriate, at the time of their booking, will be asked to produce a copy of their Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Policy.
- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular risk assessments and health and safety practices.
- A copy of this policy will be included on the Council's website.

October 2022.

Policy Review Date: October 2026