

BREDGAR PARISH COUNCIL



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS – SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction:

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Parish Council facilities.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or when changes occur in National Legislation or Procedures. New Councillors will be provided with an understanding of their responsibilities in line with this policy.

Definition of Abuse

Types of child abuse include:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Grooming
- Child Sexual Exploitation

- Child Trafficking / Modern Slavery
- Neglect
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Bullying
- Online Abuse

Types of adult abuse, informed by the Care Act 2014, include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Financial abuse
- Discriminatory abuse

Modern slavery / Human Trafficking

- Exploitation

This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

To whom this policy applies:

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Bredgar Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

Promoting a safe environment:

In order to achieve a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Bredgar Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture throughout its facilities. In order to achieve this, Bredgar Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments.

- Ensure that any employees, and Councillors are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adults at risk of abuse or neglect will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
- Consent should be obtained where necessary for photography.
- When the Parish Council organise events to include children – it is always stated that children must be accompanied by parents or guardians.
- Make available on public notice boards and to Councillors, the contact details of the relevant agencies as set out in the Appendix below.
- DBS checks are not required unless there is unsupervised access to children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Should DBS checks become necessary they will be undertaken in compliance with the Protection of Children Act [1999], The Children’s Act [2004], part V of the Police Act [1997], the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and the Care Act 2014.

Duty Councillors volunteers and employees all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. Disclosures and concerns that arise, should be reported as a matter of urgency, to the designated Safeguarding Officer and/or the Local Authority Child Protection agency.

Allegations against staff and volunteers:

All Councillors volunteers and employees should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

Reporting Procedure:

The Parish will follow the Swale and KCC procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers, a copy of which can be found on the SBC website.

Guidelines for responding to abuse, disclosures or suspicion of abuse - some DO’s and DON’T’s:

Do -

- Do always treat any allegations extremely seriously and act towards the child as if you believe what they are saying.
- Do tell the child they are right to tell you.
- Do reassure them that they are not to blame.

- Do be honest about your own position, who you must tell and why.
- Do tell the child what you are doing and when and keep them up to date with what is happening.
- Do take further action – you may be the only person in a position to prevent future abuse – tell your nominated person immediately or report to the appropriate authority.
- Do write down everything said verbatim and what was done.
- Do seek medical attention if necessary.
- Do inform parents/carers unless there is suspicion of their involvement.

DON'T -

- Don't make promises you can't keep.
- Don't interrogate the child – it is not your job to carry out an investigation – this will be up to the police and social services, who have experience in this.
- Don't cast doubt on what the child has told you, don't interrupt or change the subject.
- Don't say anything that makes the child feel responsible for the abuse.
- Don't Do Nothing – make sure you tell your nominated child protection person immediately – they will know how to follow this up and where to go for further advice.

Reporting Concerns:

Appendix - Key Contacts:

Kent County Council:

- Social Services (Central referral Unit) Adults the number is 03000 41 61 61. Children the number is 03000 411 111. Monday – Friday 8.30am to 5pm. Out of hours 03000 419191
Email social.services@kent.gov.uk or via centralduty@kent.gov.uk.
- Local Authority Designated (LADO) team – 03000 410888

- Kent Police 01622 690690.

National Bodies:

- National Domestic Violence helpline 0808 200 0247.
- NSPCC 0800 800 5000.
- Childline (child or young person) 0800 1111.

Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the Swale Borough Council website and Bredgar Parish Council supports the safeguarding policies adopted by Swale Borough Council.

Updated: November 2020.