



# North Horsham Parish Council

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

*This policy has been prepared using HM Government “Working Together to Safeguard Children” July 2018 and Horsham District Council Safeguarding 2019 [www.horsham.gov.uk accessed 25.06.19] and is in line with the Policy and Conditions of Hire in Relation to Council Owned Premises.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Safeguarding is protecting adults at risk or children from physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect. It is always unacceptable for a child, young person or an adult at risk to experience abuse of any kind. The legal duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults is set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (England and Wales). North Horsham Parish Council expects the users of its services to observe exemplary standards of behaviour and conduct with regard to safeguarding the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Council will seek to safeguard children and vulnerable adults by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that all suspicions of, and allegations of abuse are taken seriously and reported as necessary;
- Sharing information about concerns with appropriate agencies;
- Providing training and support where necessary;
- Ensuring that all Members, staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and promote good practice.

### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this policy a child is anyone under the age of 18 (as defined in The Children Act 1989). The main forms of abuse covered by the policy and defined in the Act can be categorised as Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Neglect.

A vulnerable adult is someone over the age of 18 who is ‘in need of community care services by reasons of mental health or other disability, age or illness’ and ‘is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or is unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or

exploitation'. It should be noted that disability or age alone does not signify that an adult is vulnerable.

## **PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE**

Any allegation of abuse should be reported to the user of its services, the Clerk or the Chairman of the Council as appropriate, who may need to involve outside agencies to make further investigations.

## **USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

West Sussex Adults' Services (01243 642121)  
Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) (033 022 266664)  
Sussex Police (101)  
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline (0808 800 5000)  
Child-Line (0800 1111)

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