

Safeguarding Policy



Document Control	
Minute Number	<u>14b</u>
Adopted On	18.1.23
Reviewed	<u>21.1.26</u>
Review Date	Jan <u>29</u>

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and **adults at risk**.
- 1.2 This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and **adults at risk** using Salford Priors Parish Council facilities or facilities hired by the council.
- 1.3 This policy will be reviewed regularly.

2. Definitions

2.1 Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18 years. **(Children Act 1989/2004)**

2.2 Adults at Risk:

- **has needs for care and support, and**
- **is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and**
- **as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves**

3. This policy applies to:

- **All council employees, councillors, and volunteers.**
- **Anyone carrying out work on behalf of the council, whether paid or commissioned.**
- **Users of council premises, including hirers and external groups.**

4. Promoting a safe environment

4.1 In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and **adults at risk**, Salford Priors Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this, Salford Priors Parish Council will:

- provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
- ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
- **make available on public noticeboards and to employees and councillors relevant contact details (see point 8 below).**
- **Ensure that one-to-one interactions with children or adults at risk occur in view of others whenever possible**

4.2 Employees, councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and **adults at risk** but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the authorities as detailed below as soon as possible.

5. Allegations against staff and volunteers

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

5.2 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children and Adults teams (contact details below).

Child safeguarding:

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Deleted: Vulnerable adult: anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation; or may need community care services.

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

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- Front Door (urgent concerns): 01926 414144 (Mon–Thu 8:30–17:30, Fri 8:30–17:00)
- Emergency Duty Team (out of hours): 01926 886922
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Police (non-emergency): 101
- Emergency: 999

Adult safeguarding:

- Social Care and Support: 01926 412080

Medical advice (non-life-threatening): GP or NHS 111

6. Whistleblowing

6.1 We recognise that children or adults at risk cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.

6.2 All staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the Safeguarding Teams at Warwickshire County Council.

6.3 Reports will be treated confidentially and without fear of retaliation.

7. What should be a cause for concern.

7.1 Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or an adult at risk. A child or adult at risk may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and their peers and abuse can occur in any family OR in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location.

7.2 Abuse categories differ for children and adults –

For children (UK guidance – Working Together to Safeguard Children):

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

For adults at risk (Care Act 2014):

There are 10 recognised categories, including:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological/emotional
- Financial or material
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Domestic abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational abuse

Deleted: For urgent concerns - if you have an urgent child protection concern and need to get in touch, call the Front Door on **01926 414144**.
 Lines are open:
 Monday to Thursday - 8.30am – 5:30pm
 Friday - 8.30am – 5:00pm

Out of hours - **if you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately on 01926 886922.**

If you need medical advice and support fast, but it's not life threatening, call your GP or NHS 111.

Where an adult is:
 Unable to look after themselves, due to the level of their care and support needs, and
 Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect

Contact Social Care and Support on: **01926 412080**. Social care and support teams can offer advice and support and, where necessary, arrange appropriate services.

Area-wide
 Warwickshire Police – 101
 NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

You should always call 999 in an emergency – for example when someone's life is at risk or someone is seriously injured or critically ill.

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- Self-neglect
- Modern slavery

7.3 All staff and volunteers need to have an awareness that there are many forms of abuse ranging from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

7.4 Staff, Councillors and volunteers who engage with children or adults at risk will be encouraged and supported to undertake appropriate safeguarding training.

7.5 Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the Warwickshire County Council website www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk

7.6 Staff and Councillors will be encouraged and supported to undertake recognised training on Safeguarding.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if there are legislative changes, serious incidents, or updated guidance from Warwickshire County Council

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