**CORSTON PARISH COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**ADOPTED 12.07.2023**

**SECTION 1**

**Policy Statement**

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Parish Council

facilities.

The Parish Council will review it annually.

**Definitions**

Children and young people:

Anyone under the age of 18 years

Vulnerable Adult:

Anyone over 18 who is:

• Unable to care for themselves

• Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation

• Or may be in need of community care services

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to 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 hiring, leasing or using the Parish Council facilities for

the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

**SECTION 2**

**Promoting a safe environment**

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable

adults, the Parish Council will:

• Provide safe facilities and do regular safety assessments.

• Ensure that employees, Councillors in/on parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.

• Members of staff and volunteers who have regular unsupervised contact with

children, young people or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties

MUST undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (“DBS”) checks

BEFORE commencement of such duties.

• Display a copy of this policy on the Parish Council website.

Expectations of behaviour

All users of Parish Council facilities, organisers of parish events and volunteers

should:

• Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and

professional.

• Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using

the Parish Council facilities.

• Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and

bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour to the Chair of

the Parish Council, Parish Clerk or parents/carers, as appropriate.

Hiring of facilities to groups for use with children, young people or vulnerable

adults

The Parish Council will require the hirer to:

• Have public liability insurance.

• Have a suitable safeguarding policy and/or agree to work to the Parish

Council’s policy and relevant guidance.

• Ensure leaders make their members aware of the Parish Council Policy and

ensure that it is followed whilst using parish facilities.

• Ensure leaders have valid enhanced DBS checks as appropriate and know

where the first aid boxes are and how to summon help from the Emergency

Services.

• Do risk assessments for individual activities.

**SECTION 3**

**Safe working practice**

All users of Parish Facilities must follow the policy and procedures at all times. For

example they should:

• Never leave children, young people or vulnerable adults unattended with adults

who have not been subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

• Plan activities to involve more than one person being present or at least in sight

or hearing of others. Alternatively, record, or inform others of their whereabouts

and intended action.

• Where possible, have male and female leaders working with a mixed group.

• Ensure registers are complete and attendees are marked in and signed out

(under 8’s must be collected by a parent/carer).

• Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without written

permission from their parents/carers.

• Ensure they have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire

procedures.

• When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the

weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

**SECTION 4**

**Allegations against staff and volunteers**

The Parish Council should follow the procedures for managing allegations against

staff/volunteers on the SBC Safeguarding website. No attempt should be made to

investigate or take action before consultation with the BANES safeguarding officer

**Whistleblowing**

All Parish Councillors, 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 BANES Safeguarding Team as to how to handle such allegations.

The Parish Council must not make a judgement on whether the allegations

have merit for further investigation, this decision must be for the LADO team.

What should be a cause for concern

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which

significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child. Abuse falls

into five main categories and can include child sexual exploitation and female genital

mutilation, referred to as FGM. The categories are as follows:

1. Physical Abuse

2. Emotional Abuse

3. Sexual Abuse

4. Neglect

5. Financial Abuse/Manipulation

The Parish Council are committed to ensuring the safety of all users of our

services and facilities and take our responsibilities seriously.

The Parish Council confirm this safeguarding policy will be updated as and when

such legislative/best practice changes take place or at least annually.

Reviewed and confirmed to continue as the Safeguarding Policy for Corston Parish Council 12.10.2022