

BERROW PARISH COUNCIL

Safeguarding and Child/Vulnerable Person Protection Policy

Policy Statement

Berrow Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

Policy Objective

To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organization.

To develop procedures in recording and responding to incidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.

As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children, it expects all children using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.

Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Berrow Parish Council should any child protection issue arise during their work.

Responsibility and Procedures

A child Protection Officer will be appointed from within the Council and his/her responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that members are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstance whilst carrying out their duties.
- Ensuring that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of the risk they face.
- Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by the Council or the Chairman after consultation with the Clerk following a risk assessment.
- All new Councillors are to be provided with a copy of the child protection policy and are required to acknowledge that they will abide by it.

Councillors will adhere to the "List of Recommended Behaviour"

- Adults to always wear appropriate clothing

- **Ensure that accidents are recorded in an accident book.**
- Never do anything of a personal nature for a young person.
- Keep records in an incident book of any allegations a young person or vulnerable adult may make to any Councillor.

The incident book is to be presented to the next full council meeting immediately after any update and at the first full meeting after the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

If there is a child abuse incident, it should be reported to the Child Protection Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with **SCC** Board procedures and referred to the Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment.

Facilities offered by the Parish Council are inspected and recorded on a regular basis.

In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children could be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Child Protection Policy.

Declaration

Berrow Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect.

All members of Berrow Parish Council should read the Council's Child Protection Policy. Having read the policy, they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities.

This Policy will be reviewed annually at the first meeting following the Annual Parish meeting.

Signature.....Child Protection Officer Date:.....

Next review: June 2024, being the next meeting after the Annual Parish Council Meeting and subsequently annually.