



## Safeguarding Policy

### Policy Statement

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. In the interests of protecting children and young people and the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults, the 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.

### 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.

### Policy Objective

- To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable adults.
- To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection and well-being matters and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation.
- To follow the local procedures in recording and responding to accidents 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 and vulnerable adults, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

### Policy Aims:

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of the Parish Council and any co-opted members of Committees should any child protection issue or any issues with vulnerable adults arise during their work.



# Fulford

## Parish Council

The Cemetery Lodge

Fordlands Road

York

YO19 4QG

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### **Responsibilities & Procedures:**

The Clerk has been designated as Safeguarding Officer from within the Council and the responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that participants are appropriately briefed before any Parish Council organised event with children, young people or vulnerable people.
- Ensuring that members are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances 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.
- Ensuring that before any volunteers or paid members of staff are recruited to work with children and vulnerable persons they are interviewed and two references taken up.
- Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by the Council, or the Clerk after consultation with the Chair, following a risk assessment.
- All new Councillors are to be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and are required to acknowledge they will abide by it.
- Councillors will adhere to the 'List of Recommended Behaviour' namely:
  - A minimum of two adults present when supervising children.
  - Not to play physical contact games.
  - Adults to wear appropriate clothing at all times.
  - Ensure that accidents are recorded in an accident book.
  - Never do anything of a personal nature for a young person.
- Keep records of any allegations a young person may make to any committee member or volunteer.
- If there is a child abuse incident it should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Partnership procedures and also referred to the Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment.
- Facilities offered by the Parish Council have been inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation.



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- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.
- In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children or vulnerable adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy.

### Declaration

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

All members of Fulford Parish Council should read the Safeguarding 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 Annual Council meeting in May each year.

Date of adoption of policy: 12 October 2021

Date for review: 2026

### Contact Details for relevant agencies:

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 01904 551900 / [mash@york.gov.uk](mailto:mash@york.gov.uk) / [earlyhelp@york.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@york.gov.uk) /

Outside of office hours, at weekends and on public holidays contact the emergency duty team on 01609 780780 / [edt@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:edt@northyorks.gov.uk)

City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership CYSCP@york.gov.uk

The NSPCC 0808 800 5000 [hel@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:hel@nspcc.org.uk)