



Yarpole Group Parish Council Safeguarding Statement

In the interests of child protection and the safeguarding of adults at risk* Yarpole Group Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children, young people and those adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council.

Statement Objective:

- To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by this Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children, young people and adults at risk
- To promote the general welfare and health of children, young people and adults at risk by being aware of local safeguarding procedures and to be able to respond appropriately as a local government organisation
- To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse
- As this Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children, young people or adults at risk, it expects all those using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

Aims

The aim of this statement is to guide members of Yarpole Group Parish Council should any safeguarding issues arise during their work.

Responsibilities & Procedures

A Designated / Nominated Person responsible for Safeguarding will be appointed from within the Council and his/her responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring all new Councillors are familiar with the Safeguarding Boards Safeguarding Policies and gain assurance that they will abide by them
- Ensuring that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved directly with children, young people or adults at risk during the performance of their duties they are mindful of the risk they face
- Reporting any incidents of abuse against a child, young person or adult at risk in accordance with Herefordshire's Safeguarding Boards Procedures
- Reporting any allegation made against anyone who works with children in a paid or unpaid capacity this includes for example teachers, social workers, police officers, care workers, voluntary workers, church group volunteers or those working in sports clubs a referral should be made to the Local Authority Designated Officer following the process as defined in the West Midlands

procedures. <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/ykpzy/statutory-child-protection-procedures/allegations-against-staff-or-volunteers>

- Reporting any allegation made against anyone who works with adults at risk in a paid or unpaid capacity this includes for example social workers, police officers, care workers, voluntary workers, church group volunteers or those working in sports clubs a referral should be made to the Adults Safeguarding Lead using the process as defined in the West Midlands Adults Position of Trust Framework. <https://herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/media/2116/wm-adult-pot-framework-v10-toolkit.pdf>
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers
- Deciding whether any person conducting activities on behalf of the Council should be DBS checked after consultation with the Chairman following a risk assessment
- Ensuring that before any volunteers or paid members of staff are recruited to work with children, young people or adults at risk they are interviewed and two references taken up
- Ensuring any contractors working directly for this Council working in any area where children, young people or adults at risk may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy
- Ensuring any organisation which may make contact with children, young people or adults at risk shall be required to show proof of its own appropriate Safeguarding Policy before being allowed to participate in the use of any council owned facilities.

Declaration

Yarpole Group Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children, young people and adults at risk by protecting them from any form of abuse.

All members of Yarpole Group Parish Council should read Herefordshire's Safeguarding Policies. Having read those they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children, young people and adults at risk who are involved in Council activities.

This Statement and will be reviewed annually at the Annual Council meeting in May each year.

Date: 7/11/2017

*An adult at risk is one who:

- a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Herefordshire Safeguarding Boards

Everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk of harm. We can help you make sure you know what to do if you think that is happening.

It might be difficult to accept, but anyone can be hurt, put at risk of harm or abused, regardless of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity by either someone they know or a stranger



If you are concerned about an adult ring **01432 260715** (week days 9-5) OR
0300 123 9309 (at any other time)



If you are concerned about a child ring **01432 260800**

If someone is injured or in immediate danger dial 999

If there is no emergency but you think a crime may have been committed ring West Mercia Police on 0300 333 3000 or 101

Abuse of any description is wrong and by reporting it you can help to bring it to an end

If you want more information about the work that the Safeguarding Boards do to keep children and adults that live and work in Herefordshire safe than please contact us on 01432 260100

Definitions of child abuse and neglect (Definitions taken from Working Together 2015)

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse, maternal mental ill health or learning difficulties or a cluster of such issues.

Domestic violence

Children can be affected by seeing, hearing and living with domestic violence and abuse as well as being caught up in any incidents directly, whether to protect someone or as a target.

It should also be noted that the age group of 16 and 17 year olds have been found in recent studies to be increasingly affected by this in their peer relationships.

The Home Office definition was updated in March 2013 as:

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence and abuse between those aged 16 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender and sexuality."

Definitions of adult abuse and neglect (definitions taken from Care Act 2014)

Domestic abuse Controlling and coercive behaviour, forced marriage, female genital mutilation or honour based violence.

Discriminatory abuse Ill-treatment or harassment based on a persons' age, sex, sexuality, disability, religious beliefs or ethnic group – disability hate crime.

Financial or material abuse Financial scams (in person, on line, by post or telephone); theft; fraud coercion over wills; misuse of someone's money, property or other belongings without their agreement.

Institutional abuse Through rigid regimes, systematic poor care; poor organisational culture; lack of resources; denial of choice; lack of dignity and respect for service users.

Physical abuse Hitting; burning; pushing or kicking someone; rough handling; unreasonable restraint (including misuse of medication); locking someone in a room.

Neglect or acts of omission Neglect or acts of omission by people responsible for giving care including; ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs; failure to provide access to the appropriate health, care and support or educational services; withholding necessities of like such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Sexual abuse Rape; inappropriate touching; forcing or grooming someone to take part in or witness any sexual act against their will.

Psychological or emotional abuse Intimidation; bullying; shouting; swearing; taunting; threatening or humiliating someone; grooming; manipulation; or inciting someone to carry out a criminal or terrorist acts.

Self-neglect Neglecting to care for oneself or environment.

Slavery Trafficking; forced labour and domestic servitude.