

Chollerton Parish Council – Safeguarding Policy Statement

Chollerton Parish Council is a statutory local authority set up under local government legislation to operate in the area of the civil parish of Chollerton. All Parish Councillors are volunteers. Parish Councils have a wide range of powers and duties relating to local matters, such as looking after open spaces, play areas, street lighting and bus shelters, and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities to meet local needs and improve quality of life in the parish. The range of services and facilities we offer vary over time depending on identified local needs.

Chollerton Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults (see definitions below), regardless of disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief or sexual orientation are protected and kept safe from harm or exploitation whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council. Harm or exploitation can be from physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse or neglect.

Definitions:

- **Children and Young People** – persons who are under the age of 18 years.
 - **Vulnerable Adult** - an individual aged 18 years and above who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or is unable to protect themselves against harm or exploitation by reason of age, illness, trauma or disability, or any other reason.
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Policy objectives:

- To promote a safeguarding culture for the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- To ensure that employees, volunteers, councillors, contractors, associates and any parishioners benefitting from aid or any other input from the Parish Council are aware of safeguarding expectations.
- To provide a code of conduct for engagement with children, young people and vulnerable adults (see appendix 1)
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or vulnerable adult may be experiencing or be at risk of harm.

Chollerton Parish Council will:

- Ensure that all who volunteer to be a Parish Councillor are aware of the Safeguarding Policy and agree to abide by the code of conduct.
- Nominate a Safeguarding Person as the responsible person for ensuring safeguarding best practice and being the first point of contact for any concerns. A

Safeguarding Person will volunteer at each Parish Council meeting and their contact details made available on the Parish Council website and public noticeboard.

- Ensure that all councillors and associates/ contractors are aware of safeguarding expectations and code of conduct, and how to raise any concerns.
- Make the Safeguarding Policy available on the Parish Council website.
- Make relevant contact details (see appendix 2) available on the Parish Council website and public notice board.
- Review the Safeguarding Policy annually, or earlier if necessary.

Policy adopted :

date

Signed

Review date:

APPENDIX 1

Code of conduct/behaviour

When working with children and vulnerable adults,

You Must

- Operate within Chollerton Parish Council's principles of safeguarding
- Listen to and respect children and vulnerable adults at all times;
- Avoid favouritism;
- Treat children and vulnerable adults fairly and without prejudice or discrimination;
- Value and take children's and vulnerable adult's contributions seriously, actively involving children and vulnerable adults in planning activities wherever possible;
- Ensure any contact with children and vulnerable adults is appropriate and in relation to the work of Chollerton Parish Council.
- Always ensure language is appropriate and not offensive or discriminatory;
- Follow the ICT safety policy and report any breaches;
- Always ensure equipment is used safely and for its intended purpose;
- Provide examples of good conduct you wish children and vulnerable adults to follow;
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspicions of abuse;
- Ensure that whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children, and vulnerable adults or if this isn't possible, that you are within sight or hearing of other adults;
- Be close to where others are working. If a child or vulnerable adult specifically asks for or needs some private time with you, ensure other staff know where you and the child or vulnerable adult are;
- Respect a child or vulnerable adult's right to personal privacy;
- Encourage children and vulnerable adults and all adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like;
- Recognise that special caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or vulnerable adults.

You must not:

- Patronise or treat children or vulnerable adults as if they are silly;
- Allow allegations to go unreported;
- Develop inappropriate relationships such as contact with children or vulnerable adults that is not a part of the work of Chollerton Parish Council or agreed with the council
- Conduct a sexual relationship with a child or vulnerable adult or indulge in any form of sexual contact with a child, young person or vulnerable adults. Any such behaviour

between an adult member of staff or volunteer and a child or young person using the services of Chollerton Parish Council represents a serious breach of trust on the part of the staff member or volunteer and is not acceptable under any circumstances;

- Let children and vulnerable adults have your personal contact details (mobile number or address);
- Make sarcastic, insensitive, derogatory or sexually suggestive comments or gestures to or in front of children or vulnerable adults;
- Act in a way that can be perceived as threatening or intrusive;
- Make inappropriate promises to children or vulnerable adults, particularly in relation to confidentiality;
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts either exaggerate or trivialise abuse issues;
- Rely on your reputation or that of the organisation to protect you if you take unnecessary risks when common sense, policy or practice suggests a more prudent approach;
- Adopt an attitude of complacency with regard to your own conduct.

APPENDIX 2

Reporting Concerns

If you have a concern about the welfare of any individual living in or visiting Chollerton Parish Council please contact one of the following numbers as appropriate:

- In an emergency situation: call 999
- For non-urgent medical help please call 111 or local GP
- If you are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult or child is experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect call One Call on 01670 536400. This line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- If you wish to report a concern anonymously you can do so using a form available on Northumberland County Council website at <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding/What-can-I-do-if-I-suspect-a-child-or-young-person.aspx#worriedaboutachild-reportyourconcerns>
- If you are concerned that a child or young person is at risk whilst using facilities or taking part in activities run by Chollerton Parish Council, please contact their current Safeguarding Officer . Contact details will be available on the Parish Council website or public noticeboard