



Letcombe Regis Parish Council Safeguarding Policy 2020

SECTION 1

Introduction

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

This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for Councillors and for those using parish council facilities in whatever capacity. The Parish Council should 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 Councillors and 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.

Any individual or group hiring, leasing or using the Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults must follow the Safeguarding Policy of the Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust.

What should be a cause for concern

Any person listed above to whom this policy applies should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

Abuse falls into four main categories and can include child exploitation and female genital mutilation:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

Councillors, Staff and their agents coming into contact with children need to have an awareness of safeguarding.

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 on the Millennium Green and Parish Council Burial Ground
- Ensure that Councillors, employees, volunteers, agents of the Parish Council and leaders of activities on the Millennium Green and Parish Council Burial Ground, are aware of the safeguarding expectations
- Display on notice boards the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help. See below.

SECTION 3

Safe working practice

All users of Parish Council Facilities must follow the safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults policy and procedures at all times.

Expectations of behaviour

All Councillors and Staff and others to whom this policy applies should:

- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction with parishioners should be appropriate and professional
- Treat each other with respect

- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, ageism and bullying and report any instances of such behaviour to safeguarding councillor. See below.

SECTION 4

Allegations against staff and volunteers

- All Councillors, Staff and agents of the Parish Council should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult.
- If an allegation is made against a member of staff, agent or Councillor, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Safeguarding Councillor or if allegation is made against him or her, the Chair of the Parish Council. In either case the allegation will immediately be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer.
- The Parish Council will follow the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) procedures for managing allegations against Councillors, staff agents or volunteers as per the OSCB website. No attempt should be made to interview, investigate or take action before consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). See contact details below.

Whistleblowing

All Councillors and staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO or Safeguarding Team.

OSCB	OSCB@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 815843
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Useful Safeguarding Contact Details

Contact	Email	Telephone
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) To report a concern of abuse or neglect call the MASH Team	mash-childrens@oxfordshire.gcsx.gov.uk	0845 0507666
Contact	Email	Telephone
Local Authority Designated Officer To report an allegation against a person in a position of trust	LADO.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 810603

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) -

For general safeguarding issues and training please contact the OSCB team.

Contact	Email	Telephone
OSCB	OSCB@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 815843
Website: www.oscb.org.uk		

Letcombe Regis Parish Council

Contact	Email	Telephone
Cllr Light	cllr.light.letregispc@btinternet.com	01235 771106

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