

SWEFLING PARISH COUNCIL
Safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse policy
October 2023

1. Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Swefling Parish Council (hereafter SPC) operates to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Parish Council facilities and those involved in any of the activities of the Parish Council. We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who comes into contact with SPC including: children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our clerk and any volunteer.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all staff (our clerk), contractors and volunteers and will be used to support their work.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect

For the purposes of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to paragraph 14.2 of the Care Act 2015:

- has care and support needs
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service, they may still be an adult at risk.

3. Persons affected

- All Councillors
- Parish Council Clerk (paid staff)
- All visitors to any event organised by SPC

All visitors to SPC owned facilities.

4. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, and mistreatment. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness.

Sweffling Parish Council has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Sweffling Parish Council recognises that under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

Sweffling Parish Council is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised. Adults will be included in swift and personalised safeguarding responses.

Sweffling Parish Council is also committed to inter agency collaboration on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of adults vulnerable from abuse, it has a duty and responsibility for making arrangements to ensure all its functions are discharged having regard to safeguarding and promoting the adults at risk of abuse. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

Sweffling is committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount
- All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
 - Arrangements which set out clearly the process for sharing information procedures with other professionals and with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and Safeguarding Adult Board.
 - Staff, contractors and volunteers must be clear on appropriate behaviour and responses.
 - Safe recruitment practices are in place including policies on when to obtain a DBS check.

5. Procedures

- a. A councillor will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency: currently 'Customer First - 0808 800 4005'
- b. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adult at risk who has:
 - behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or adult at risk; or

- • behaved towards a child or children or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

C. SPC will ensure that all councillors and the clerk understand;

- Core legal safeguarding requirements and their responsibility to keep children and adults at risk safe.
- That all councillors and the clerk who come into contact with children and adults at risk are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children and adults at risk;
- The requirement to share appropriate information in a timely way and that they can discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues and local authority children's and adults social care.

d. Sweffling Parish Council will carry out an annual review of this policy

Referrals

If you believe an adult or child is at risk of immediate harm ring 999 and talk to the Police.

If you have general concerns or worries about possible harm to an adult or child contact

'Customer First' free number 0808 800 4005

Special Note

SPC will encourage other groups in the village to adopt their own safeguarding policy.

Up-dated Safeguarding Policy adopted.....date

.....signed Chairman