



# PUCKLECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## **Safeguarding Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy**

**Pucklechurch Parish Council** provides the following activities:

- First level of Government

Whilst these do not include direct services or support for children, young people and vulnerable adults **Pucklechurch Parish Council** recognises that safeguarding those members of society is everyone's business and that all may become vulnerable at many stages in their lives.

**Pucklechurch Parish Council** is committed therefore to ensure that the Management Committee, volunteers and those who participate in activities run by the organisation have an understanding of Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and what forms abuse may take and that they know where to raise concerns if abuse is suspected or reported.

### **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children means:**

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing the impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children are growing up circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances

*(NSPCC Safeguarding Children 2016)*

### **Abuse can take various forms:**

- Physical
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Sexual
- Domestic



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All **Pucklechurch Parish Council** activities with children are run with the parents or carers of the children present. Volunteers and Management Committee members are not permitted at any time to be alone with children.

All **Pucklechurch Parish Council** members, volunteers and those who participate in activities run by the organisation are inducted into this policy and procedure and have an understanding of what forms abuse can take and how to report any concerns.

**Pucklechurch Parish Council** will ensure all who are arranging events on their behalf are made aware of this policy.

## **Definition of Vulnerable Adults**

Someone 'who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself or protect themselves from harm'

No Secrets: Department of Health, March 2000

This means that not all adults are vulnerable but some may be vulnerable at times and others will be vulnerable all the time. It is important to talk to the appropriate people (in South Gloucestershire this is the Adult Customer Service Desk in the Children, Adult and Health Department of the Council).

## **Definition of Abuse**

"Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons"

No Secrets: Department of Health, March 2000

### **Abuse includes:**

- Sexual abuse: forcing or persuading an individual to take part in sexual activities. (This doesn't have to be physical contact, and it can happen online).
- Emotional abuse, emotional maltreatment or neglect belittling, name calling,
- Financial or material abuse, stealing, selling assets
- Neglect: failing to meet a child's basic needs
- Discriminatory abuse (including racist, sexist, based on a person's disability and other forms of harassment)
- Institutional



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- Domestic abuse, witnessing domestic abuse
- Physical abuse, deliberately hurting a child hitting, slapping, punching, burning
- Online abuse, any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones
- Child sexual exploitations a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM) cutting or partial or total removal of external genitalia for non-medical reasons.
- Bullying and cyber bullying can occur anywhere is usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.
- Child trafficking where a child is recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.
- Grooming a person can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know.
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour a behaviour that harms themselves or others.
- Prevent, the radicalisation of an individual

Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts.

People may make the choice to remain in abusive situations and if they have the mental capacity to make that decision that may be appropriate, however the decision about mental capacity is a complex one and it is important that the correct assessment of capacity is undertaken within the safeguarding process.

### **Prevent**

Pucklechurch Parish Council recognises the current issues regarding the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people.

PREVENT is a key part of the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of PREVENT in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. PREVENT happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation, and as a council we have included this into our safeguarding process.



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## **Advice and information**

South Gloucestershire Council Customer Service Desk Adult Care Team can be accessed for advice or information contact 01454 868007

## **Reporting Concerns**

**If a crime may have been or is being committed contact the Police on 101 or 999**

Volunteers and Management Committee members should report any concern that they have about a child or vulnerable adult to Chair of the Management Committee unless the concern is about the Chair where it should be reported to the Vice Chair who will contact the SGC Team below.

Members of the public can follow the instructions below:

### **Children and Young people.**

Contact South Gloucestershire Council's First Point Team on 01454 866000 or the Emergency Duty Team (out of hours and weekends) on 01454 615165

### **Vulnerable Adults**

**To raise a concern contact South Gloucestershire Council's Customer Adult Care Team service desk on 01454 868007.**

Where possible, agreement should be obtained from the adult before sharing personal information with third parties.

## **Record Keeping**

If a concern is raised this should be documented and sent through to the Clerk, Chair or Vice Chair of **Pucklechurch Parish Council**

## **Managing allegations against staff or volunteers**

Any allegation will be fully investigated and **Pucklechurch Parish Council** will support staff/volunteers during this process. It is important that allegations are thoroughly investigated through the Safeguarding process so that allegations can be either proved or disproved for the protection of the child(ren), vulnerable adult(s) and staff.

Any allegation related to staff and/or volunteers working with Children and Young People must be reported to the South Gloucestershire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on 01454 868924.



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It is important to remember that abuse is defined by the impact on the individual not the intention of the abuser, in other words if someone does not have their needs cared for this can be just as damaging whether it is done deliberately or because a carer can no longer manage. Obviously the way of then supporting the situation would be likely to be different.

People who behave abusively come from all backgrounds and walks of life. They may be doctors, nurses, social workers, advocates, staff members, volunteers or others in a position of trust. They may also be relatives, friends, neighbours or people who use the same services as the person experiencing abuse.

### **Review of This Policy**

**Pucklechurch Parish Council** will review this policy annually.

This policy is reviewed annually by the council at the annual council meeting when any relevant changes will be made . See minutes for further details