

STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using parish council facilities. The policy will be reviewed by the parish council regularly.

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 anyone working for or on behalf of Stratton Audley Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Stratton Audley Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this, Stratton Audley Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments.

- Ensure that employees, and councillors are aware of the safeguarding expectations.

- Make available on public notice boards and to employees and councillors, the contact details of the following:
 - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0845 0507666
 - The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), 01865 815956
 - The NSPCC 020 7825 2500
 - The Social Care Emergency Duty Team (EDT), 0800 833 408

- Employees, councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the Local Social Care Duty Officer, the MASH or EDT as soon as possible.

Allegations against staff and volunteers

- All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.
- All staff should be aware of the settings behaviour/discipline policy.
- The Parish should follow the OSCB procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers, a copy of which can be found on or through the OSCB website.

No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the LADO (contact details above).

Whistleblowing

We recognise that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.

All staff and volunteers 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.

What should be a cause for concern

Staff and Volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or a vulnerable adult. A child or vulnerable adult may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and their peers, and abuse can occur in any family OR in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location.

Abuse falls into four main categories:

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

All staff and volunteers need to have an awareness that there are many other forms of abuse ranging from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children or vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training through the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) but further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the OSCB website (www.oscb.org.uk).

All agencies, whether statutory, voluntary or other are obliged to follow the procedures laid out on the OSCB website. 4

Useful Safeguarding Contact Details

ASSESSMENT & INFORMATION TEAMS - To report a concern of abuse or neglect, please contact the relevant Children's Social Care Assessment team. **Telephone**

Contact

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) **0845 0507666**

Professionals wanting to make a new safeguarding concern (MASH enquiry) on a closed case, should call the MASH Team

Or email mash-childrens@oxfordshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Professionals wanting to contact the children's assessment teams regarding an open case, should use the numbers below for the area teams:

Oxford City **01865 328563**

for any safeguarding concerns on open cases and a no names consultation

cfassessmentcity@oxfordshire.gov.uk

North Oxfordshire (including Banbury, Witney, Bicester, Carterton and Woodstock) **01865 323039**

for any safeguarding concerns on open cases and a no names consultation

cfassessmentnorth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire (including Faringdon, Wantage, Thame, Didcot and Henley) **01865 323041**

for any new safeguarding concerns on open cases and a no names consultation

cfassessmentssouth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Team **0800 833 408**

(out of hours)

John Radcliffe Hospital **01865 221236**

for antenatal safeguarding concerns and issues concerning children or vulnerable adults in the hospital