



## **Safeguarding Policy**

This policy applies to all staff, including Councillors, paid staff, volunteers, students, agency staff or anyone working on behalf of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive Stirchley and Brookside Parish council's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child and vulnerable adult protection;

Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council believes that no one should ever experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to protect the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

### **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable adults, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: HM Government 2018
- West Mercia Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures  
<http://www.telfordsafeguardingboard.org.uk/>

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures on:

- Complaints
- Health and Safety
- Anti-bullying
- Lone working

Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council recognises that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communications needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Nominated Safeguarding Officer and deputy and a lead Councillor for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff, councillors and volunteers.
- developing and implementing an effective on line policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff, councillors and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have an effective complaints procedure in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for all including staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

## Contact details

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