

Staveley with Ings Parish Council
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Approved 1st February 2016

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 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 anyone working for or on behalf of Staveley with Ings 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, Staveley with Ings Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture within its activities. In order to achieve this, Staveley with Ings 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:
 - Cumbria Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0333 2401727
 - Cumbria Local Authority Designated Officer: 01768 812267
 - NSPCC: 020 7825 2500
 - The Social Care Emergency Duty Team: 01228 526690
- 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 Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, the Local Authority Safeguarding Officer or the Social Care Emergency Duty Team as soon as possible.

Allegations against staff and volunteers

All staff or volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for work with individual children, parents or vulnerable adults to be conducted in view of other adults.

All staff and volunteers should be aware of the settings behaviour/discipline policy.

The Parish should follow the CSCB (Cumbria Safeguarding Children's Board) procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers, a copy of which can be found on the through the CSCB website.

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

Whistleblowing

We recognise that children and 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 Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 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 vulnerable adult. A child or vulnerable adult may be abused by parents/children, other relatives or carers, professionals and other children, 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 will have accessed appropriate child protection training through the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) but further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the CSCB website.

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