

Loddington Parish Council Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose

Safeguarding and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk from abuse and neglect.

This policy defines how Loddington Parish Council operates to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters the Pavillion and Grounds, including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/or participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our councillors, clerk, the Playing Field Manager and volunteers.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all councillors, volunteers and paid staff 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.

Adults at risk of abuse and neglect

For the purpose of this policy, adults at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:

- 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 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.

Persons affected

- All Parish Councillors, clerk, the Playing Field Manager, volunteers and paid staff who use the Pavillion and its grounds

- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the Pavillion and its grounds
- All visitors and contractors

3. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking any reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk or abuse or neglect. 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, age or illness.

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

Loddington Parish Council recognises that under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty of 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's Act 1989 and 2004.

Loddington Parish Council is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding to the relevant authorities effectively, as necessary, if concerns are raised.

Loddington Parish Council 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.
- All suspicious and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

4. Procedures

- a. All Parish Councillors will declare that they have no convictions in relation to abuse and have no unsupervised access to children, young people or adults at risk unless properly vetted.
- b. All Parish Councillors will familiarise themselves with this policy and understand the principles set out in section 3 above
- c. All hirers of the Pavillion and its grounds involving children, young people and adults at risk, must provide a copy of their own Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when requested to do so or, confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the Parish Council's principles and procedures

with regard to safeguarding. Relevant Safeguarding Policies will be added as an appendix to this document for the Parish Council's reference.

- d. A member of the Parish Council will be appointed to responsible for Safeguarding matters. This person will have a responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.
- e. The named person is **Kate Reneerkens** until **May 2027**.
- f. The appointed person will seek advice regarding any allegation involving the concern for the safety and welfare of any children, young people or adult at risk and may relate to a person who has:
 - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, young person or adult at risk or harmed a child, young person or adult at risk
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child, young person 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 or adults at risk.
- g. The Parish Council will carry out an annual review of this policy.