

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy



Document Version Control

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V1	13 th July 2015	ASZ	
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Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the commitment of Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council ("the Council") to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in accordance with current legislation and best practice. It aims to:

- Define the Council's responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.
- Ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that facilities provided by the Council are safe for children and vulnerable adults.
- Promote awareness and understanding within the community of safeguarding responsibilities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All children (under 18 years old) and vulnerable adults.
- Parish Councillors, staff, contractors, volunteers, and community members engaged in Council-related activities.
- All Council-owned or managed facilities.

3. Legal and Policy Framework

This policy is guided by the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- The Care Act 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018, updated 2023)
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (where relevant)

4. Definitions

- **Child:** Any person under the age of 18.
- **Vulnerable Adult:** A person aged 18 or over who has care and support needs, is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect, and is unable to protect themselves.

5. Principles

- All individuals have the right to live free from abuse, harm, and neglect.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- All suspicions and allegations must be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.
- Adults must be protected from false or malicious accusations.

6. Responsibilities

The Council does not directly deliver services to children or vulnerable adults but provides recreational facilities that may be used by them. It has a duty to ensure these facilities are

safe and that any organised activity involving children or vulnerable adults is conducted responsibly.

The Clerk will act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and is the point of contact for safeguarding concerns within the Council.

7. Procedures

Reporting Concerns: Any individual with concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult must report it directly to:

- **Kent Children's Services:** 03000 41 11 11
- **Kent Adult Social Services:** 03000 41 61 61
- **Out of Hours:** 03000 41 91 91
- **Police (non-emergency):** 101
- **In an emergency:** Call 999

If an individual chooses to share the concern with a councillor or member of staff, they will be advised to contact the above agencies directly.

Confidentiality: All safeguarding concerns must be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Any notes taken should be factual and stored securely in line with data protection legislation.

Facilities: The Council will:

- Maintain its recreational areas to approved safety standards.
- Ensure regular inspections are conducted, including by independent auditors.

Use of Facilities: Groups and organisations using Council facilities must:

- Provide evidence of valid safeguarding policies.
- Ensure staff and volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults have enhanced DBS checks.

Parental responsibility is assumed for informal use by children.

Contractors: All contractors and subcontractors will receive a copy of this policy. Their conduct must ensure children and vulnerable adults are not put at risk or exposed to potential harm.

Community Involvement: The Council will:

- Encourage public awareness of safeguarding responsibilities.
- Promote safe practices and responsible adult conduct in public spaces.
- Acknowledge the risk of false accusations and advise all adults to avoid situations that could be misinterpreted.

8. Training and Review

- This policy will be reviewed biannually.

- The Clerk and any relevant individuals will receive basic safeguarding awareness training.
- All new councillors and staff will be made aware of this policy during induction.

9. Support and Advice

Further information and advice can be obtained from:

- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000
 - **Childline:** 0800 1111
 - **Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership:** www.kscmp.org.uk
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