SHALDON PARISH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

ADOPTED 23 January 2024
REVIEWED May 2025
NEXT REVIEW May 2026

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Shaldon Parish Council facilities.

Who does the Policy Apply to?

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Shaldon Parish Council whether as a volunteer or a paid employee.

Promoting a Safe Environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Shaldon Parish Council promotes a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas.

To achieve this, Shaldon Parish Council will:

- provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
- ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
- make available on public noticeboards and to its employee and councillors relevant contact details.

Any employees, councillors and volunteers 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 authorities as detailed below as soon as possible

Allegations against Councillors, staff and volunteers

All Councillors, staff and volunteers 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. No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the relevant teams detailed below.

Child Protection in Devon

If anyone is concerned about the safety of a child in Devon or want to speak to someone, they can contact:

- the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk giving as much detail as possible.

Vulnerable Adults in Devon

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, please contact

- Care Direct on 0345 1551 007 (Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 8.00 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 1.00 pm)

- Call the Emergency Duty Service on 0345 6000 388 (outside of the hours above or on bank holidays)
- Or email csc.caredirect@devon.gov.uk

Immediate Danger

If a child or adult is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police.

Medical Advice

If you need medical advice and support fast, but it's not life threatening, call your GP or NHS 111.

Other Useful Numbers

- Devon & Cornwall Police – 101
- NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

Whistleblowing

Shaldon Parish Council 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 should be sought.

What should be a cause for concern

Councillors, 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:

- physical abuse.
- emotional abuse.
- sexual abuse.
- financial abuse and neglect.

In the normal course of their duties, it is not anticipated that Councillors, staff or volunteers will interact with children or vulnerable adults, ideally they will have accessed appropriate training and will be expected to have up to date and appropriate level of DBS check. DBS checks to be renewed every three years and reviewed on an annual basis to confirm that details are still relevant and correct.