



Hatton Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy 2021

September 2021	Adopted

1. Introduction

1.1 Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

1.2 This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Hatton Parish Council facilities or working with the Parish Council and the community of Hatton.

1.3 This policy will be reviewed regularly.

2. Definitions

2.1 Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18 years.

2.2 Vulnerable adult: anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation; or may need community care services.

3. To whom this policy applies

3.1 This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Hatton Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary, or commissioned capacity.

4. Promoting a safe environment

4.1 In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Hatton Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. To achieve this, Hatton 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 employees and councillors relevant contact details.

4.2 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 authorities as detailed below as soon as possible.

5. Allegations against staff and volunteers

5.1 All staff 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.

5.2 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the Warrington Borough Council's Safeguarding Children and Young People Team on **01925 443322**.

6. Whistleblowing

6.1 We recognise that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.

6.2 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 the Safeguarding Teams at Warrington Borough Council.

7. What should be a cause for concern

7.1 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.

7.2 Abuse falls into four main categories:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- neglect

7.3 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).

7.4 Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children or vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training.

7.5 Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the Warrington Borough Council website.

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/mars>

8. Important Contacts

- Report any safeguarding concerns about a child or young person to Children's Safeguarding/Social Work Team on **01925 443322**
- Outside of office hours ring **01925 444400**
- If you believe a crime has been committed contact the police on **101**
- If you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm call **999**
- Warrington Borough Council have a named senior officer who has overall responsibility for ensuring that the organisation operates procedures for dealing with allegations.

Local Authorities should also designate officers - the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) - to be involved in the management and oversight of individual cases.

LADOs provide advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations, liaise with the police and other agencies and monitor the progress of cases. They ensure cases are dealt with as quickly as possible and are consistent with a thorough and fair process.

The local authority designated officer (LADO) for Warrington

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/local-authority-designated-officer-lado>

