



Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy

Policy Statement

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and those adults with care and support needs who are or may be at risk of abuse or neglect (referred to in this policy as 'adults at risk').

Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council (LSWA PC) is committed to ensuring that children and adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

Policy Objective:

- To protect and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk using or receiving services provided by or commissioned by LSWA PC and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation.

Definitions:

Safeguarding

- Essentially, protecting children and adults at risk from ill-treatment and harm

Abuse:

- Forms of ill treatment, including neglect. Somebody may abuse a child or adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm.
- The most common types of abuse are physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect

Children & Young People

- Anyone under the age of 18 years.

Adult: An adult who –

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs),

- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Vulnerable Adult - The Law Commission Report into Adult Social Care (2011) defined an Adult at Risk as a person who:

- must appear to have health or social care needs, including carers (irrespective of whether or not those needs are being met by services)
- must appear to be at risk of harm
- must appear to be unable to safeguard themselves from harm as a direct result of their health or social care needs.

Safeguarding - Safeguarding is defined in “Working Together to Safeguard Children” 2013 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 and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Abuse of Children - The NSPCC have identified specific forms of abuse which may be perpetrated against a child. These are defined as:

- Bullying
- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Child trafficking
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse

Abuse of an Adult - The Law Commission's Report into Adult Social Care defines harm as including but not limited to:

- ill treatment (including sexual abuse, exploitation and forms of ill treatment which are not physical)
- the impairment of health (physical or mental) or development (physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural)
- self-harm and neglect
unlawful conduct which adversely affects property, rights or interests (for example, financial abuse).

Employees, Parish Councillors and Contractors

- Anyone working for, or on behalf of LSWA PC, whether paid or voluntary.

Taking responsibility for Safeguarding

Councillors, employees and volunteers may notice something which causes them concern when out and about in the parish. It is not our role to investigate any signs of abuse. However we do have a responsibility to act if we have any concerns and alert those who can look into those issues.

To take responsibility for safeguarding LSWA PC will:

- Identify someone within the parish council who will take lead responsibility for Safeguarding, ensuring that councillors and employees understand what safeguarding means, what to look out for and how to pass on any concerns
- Follow safe recruitment practices, including application forms, references and induction
- Identify and meet training needs for those councillors and employees who come into contact with children and adults at risk
- Ensure that councillors and employees who come into regular unsupervised contact with children and adults at risk during the course of their duties to undergo appropriate Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks
- Require external organisations working with or on behalf of the council who have contact with children and adults at risk to have a Safeguarding Policy and procedures
- Councillors, employees and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction which harms a child or adult at risk. If they are unsure whether this needs to be reported as a safeguarding concern they should seek the advice of the person within the Parish Council with lead responsibility.
- The Parish Clerk is the Safeguarding lead. The Safeguarding Lead will ensure that the Parish Council receives reports, excluding details of a confidential nature, on safeguarding issues.

Contact information for making a referral regarding a safeguarding concern

For all child protection issues contact Staffordshire County Council's
First Response Team based at the MASH on

0800 1313 126

(Between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am and 4.30 pm on a Friday)

Or via a brief e-mail

frist@staffordshire.gov.uk

To make an Adult Protection referral advice should be sought from the Adult Protection Contact Centre

0345 604 2719

(Between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am and 4.30 pm on a Friday).

Outside of office hours

Any concerns relating to a child or adult at risk of abuse and neglect should be directed to Staffordshire County Council

Emergency Duty Service on

0345 604 2886.

Alternatively, contact

Staffordshire Police Central Referral Unit on

101

Or dial

999 in an emergency.

It is everybody's responsibility to recognise the signs of, and to report, abuse wherever it is seen, suspected or disclosed. Employees, Councillors and all users of parish facilities are responsible for reporting suspicions of abuse and must also respond appropriately to any disclosure and take any immediate action necessary to protect children and adults at risk.

All information relating to safeguarding will be kept securely and only shared on a need-to-know basis.

This policy will be reviewed annually. Last review May 2019