

# Wisborough Green Parish Council

## Child & Vulnerable Persons Protection Policy

### 1. Purpose and Scope

Wisborough Green Parish Council recognises the importance of child protection and is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable people are safeguarded whilst engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

### 2. Aim

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Wisborough Green Parish Council should any child protection issue arise during their Parish Council work.

### 3. Objectives

- a. To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable people.
- b. To promote the safeguarding, health, development and well-being of children and vulnerable people by being aware of child protection issues and personal safety education.
- c. Requiring all children using its facilities to do so with the consent and necessary supervision of a parent or other responsible person.
- d. Holding agreed procedures for recording and responding effectively to accidents/complaints and any allegations or suspected incidents of abuse.

### 4. Responsibilities and Procedures

- a. A Child & Vulnerable Person Protection Officer will be appointed from within the Council who will be responsible for:
  - Reviewing safeguarding aspects of any Parish Council activity involving children and vulnerable people.
  - Reviewing the Child Protection Policy annually to ensure it is fit for purpose.
  - Briefing members, as necessary, to ensure awareness of risk proportionate to their duties.
- b. A Parish Councillor should hold a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check where appropriate or necessary.
- c. All Parish Council members will be provided with a copy of the Child Protection Policy and are required to acknowledge they will adhere to it.
- d. Parish Council facilities are inspected regularly, and annually by ROSPA or similar organisation.
- e. All Parish Council members will adhere to the list of recommended behaviours if/when supervising children:
  - A minimum of two people present.
  - Not to participate in physical contact games.
  - To wear appropriate clothing at all times.
  - No member should be in an enclosed space eg. room/shed/toilet on their own with a child. In the event of an accident, another adult should be present and where safe and practicable a door should remain open.
  - Never do anything of a personal nature for a child or vulnerable person.

- f. In the event of a suspected incident of child abuse it should be reported to the designated Child Protection Officer who will ensure it is handled in accordance with the local Safeguarding Board procedures.
- g. All councillors have an individual duty of care as responsible adults to notify the appropriate authority without delay if child abuse is disclosed to them, or if they identify recognised signs and symptoms of child abuse. (See Appendix A and B.)

**5. Declaration**

Wisborough Green Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable people by protecting them where possible from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect.

All members of Wisborough Green Parish Council should read the Child Protection Policy and be pro-active in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people when carrying out their Parish Council duties.

**6. Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary every 2 years.