



Curbridge and Lew Parish Council Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2024

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using parish council facilities. The policy will be reviewed by the parish council annually.

Definitions

Children and young people:

Anyone under the age of 18 years.

Vulnerable Adult:

Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- Or may be in need of community care services.

To whom this policy applies

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

Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Curbridge and Lew Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this, Curbridge and Lew Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments
- Ensure that employees, and councillors are aware of the safeguarding expectations
- Make available on public notice boards and to employees and councillors, the contact details of the following:
 - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), 0345 050 7666
 - The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), 01865 815956
 - The NSPCC 020 7825 2500
 - The Social Care Emergency Duty Team (EDT), 0800 833 408

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 Local Social Care Duty Officer, the MASH or EDT as soon as possible.

Allegations against staff and volunteers

- All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults
- The Parish should follow the OSCB procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers, a copy of which can be found or on the through the OSCB website

No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the LADO (contact details above).

Whistleblowing

We recognise that children 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 will be sought from the LADO or Safeguarding Team.

What should be a cause for concern

Staff and Volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child. A child may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and other children, 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:

1. Physical abuse
2. Emotional abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Neglect

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).

Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children will have accessed appropriate child protection training through the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) but further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the OSCB website (www.oscb.org.uk).

All agencies, whether statutory, voluntary or other are obliged to follow the procedures laid out on the OSCB website.

Useful Safeguarding Contact Details

ASSESSMENT & INFORMATION TEAMS - To report a concern of abuse or neglect, please contact the relevant Children's Social Care Assessment team.

Contact	Telephone
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Professionals wanting to make a new safeguarding concern (MASH enquiry) on a closed case, should call the MASH Team Or email mash-childrens@oxfordshire.gcsx.gov.uk	0845 0507666
Professionals wanting to contact the children's assessment teams regarding an open case, should use the numbers below for the area teams:	
Oxford City for any safeguarding concerns on open cases and a no names consultation cfassessmentcity@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 328563
North Oxfordshire (including Banbury, Witney, Bicester, Carterton and Woodstock) for any safeguarding concerns on open cases and a no names consultation cfassessmentnorth@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 323039
South Oxfordshire (including Faringdon, Wantage, Thame, Didcot and Henley) for any new safeguarding concerns on open cases and a no names consultation cfassessmentsouth@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 323041
Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)	0800 833 408
John Radcliffe Hospital for antenatal safeguarding concerns and issues concerning children in the hospital	01865 221236
Kingfisher Team (Child Sexual Exploitation)	01865 335276
Access to Information and Services Team	0845 050 7666

LADO AND SCHOOLS SAFEGUARDING TEAM – To report an allegation against a person in a position of trust, please contact the LADO and Schools Safeguarding team.

Contact	Email	Telephone
Schools Safeguarding Team	LADO.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 810603

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) – For general safeguarding issues, please contact the OSCB team.

Contact	Email	Telephone
OSCB	OSCB@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 815843
Website: www.oscb.org.uk		