

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. South Marston Parish Council is committed to maintaining the welfare of people whilst they are using the Parish Council facilities or services described within this policy.

1) This policy applies to:

- anyone working for or on behalf of the Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.
- any individual or organisation hiring the Parish Council facilities for delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

2) 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

3) Relevant Facilities and Services

- The Parish Council owns the Recreation Ground and commissions SMRA to manage its use on their behalf. This can include the running of community events.
- The Parish Council owns the allotments and other areas of public open space and manages these by employing contractors or by use of volunteers.
- The Parish Council organises events and publishes material such as their website, Facebook and Community News magazine.

The Parish Council has no Councillors, staff members or volunteers whose responsibilities directly and regularly involve the care of children or vulnerable adults.

4) Safeguarding Requirements – managing contact with children and vulnerable adults

Organisers of events and activities should ensure that there is more than one adult present during such events and that there is no inappropriate one-to-one contact between adults and children. Parents or guardians should be encouraged to attend and be present at any event.

Those Councillors, staff members and volunteers involved in such events should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. Contact with individual children should be in view of other adults where possible.

5) How we will deliver the policy

a) Recreation ground and community events run by SMRA

The Memorandum of Understanding with SMRA should include a section on safeguarding, specifying:

- Safety issues with Equipment and Facilities on the Rec will be regularly monitored
- Risk assessments for community events mounted by SMRA that may involve unaccompanied children will address issues of safeguarding and all volunteers will be informed of safeguarding requirements.

b) Allotments Working Group/Open Spaces Working Group

The Terms of Reference should specify the need for:

- Risk assessments for events or activities that may involve unaccompanied children that address issues of safeguarding
- Regular monitoring of safety issues at the allotments and other open spaces.
- Informing all volunteers of safeguarding requirements.

c) Communications Working Group

The Terms of Reference should include a statement on safeguarding in respect of publication of photographs or other material relating to under 18s without parental consent (where the individual could be identified).

6) Further Actions

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, the Parish Council will:

- Ensure that employees, councillors and leaders of activities in parish facilities, are informed of the safeguarding expectations.
- Monitor any changes in facilities and services that may bring councillors, contractors, staff or volunteers into regular unsupervised contact with children and young people.
- Ensure contacts for advice and help on safeguarding issues are published on the website and on noticeboards.
- Ensure that all councillors, members of staff or volunteers are informed that, if they are made aware of a specific safeguarding issue, this should be referred to the appropriate authority (see below) without making any further investigation.
- Have appropriate public liability insurance, including for any under 18 volunteers.
- Complete a risk assessment for any individual activities not otherwise covered above.

Appropriate authority:

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 01793 463854

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership website: <https://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/>

Date of Policy: 21st May 2024

To be reviewed: Annual Meeting