**Chittlehampton Parish Council Child Safeguarding Policy (2023)**

**SECTION 1**

**Child Safeguarding Policy Statement**

Chittlehampton Parish Council abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and is committed to safeguarding practices that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements. We recognise that:

* the welfare of children and young people is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
* working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare
* all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
* some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
* extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

**To whom this policy applies:**

* This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Chittlehampton Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, for example contracted to do a piece of work.
* It also applies to any individual hiring, leasing or using the Parish Council facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children or young people.

**The purpose of the policy:**

* To provide protection for the children and young people who are either resident in or visiting the parish.
* To provide anyone working for or on behalf of Chittlehampton Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, as well as children, young people, and their families, with guidance on the overarching principles and procedures that guide our approach to child protection.

Failure to comply with this policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay.

**Definitions:**

**The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is**: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

**Child Abuse:** Children and young people may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

• Bullying and cyberbullying

• Child sexual exploitation

• Child Criminal exploitation

• Child trafficking

• Domestic abuse

• Female genital mutilation

• Grooming

• Historical abuse

• Online abuse

**Safeguarding children:** Safeguarding children is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 as:

• Protecting children from maltreatment.

• Preventing impairment of children’s health or development.

• Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

• Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. Safeguarding as part of the Golden Rules: In safeguarding children, Chittlehampton Parish Council is committed to the principles of Devon Children and Families Golden Rules to make everyone SAFER (Education and skills websites - SAFER Golden Rules.pdf - All Documents (sharepoint.com))**.**

**Legal Framework:**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning.

**We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:**

• valuing them, listening to, and respecting them

• appointing a nominated safeguarding lead for children and young people

• adopting child protection best practice through our procedures and a code of conduct

• making sure that children, young people, and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern

• using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families, and carers appropriately

• using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately

• ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place

• ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance

• reviewing our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures annually.

**Nominated Safeguarding Lead:**

Nominated Safeguarding Lead: Lucy Buckingham

Phone/email: 07745348143 or 01769 540203 seathertonlucy@gmail.com

**SECTION 2**

**Promoting a safe environment**

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

* Provide safe facilities and do regular safety assessments.
* Ensure that employees, Councillors and leaders of activities in the parish or in/on parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
* Members of staff and volunteers who have regular unsupervised contact with children or young people during the course of their duties MUST undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (“DBS”) checks BEFORE commencement of such duties.
* Display on Parish Council notice boards in the village the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help.  A copy will also be made available on the Parish Council website.

**Expectations of behaviour**

All users of Parish Council facilities, organisers of parish events and volunteers should:

* Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional.
* Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using the Parish Council facilities.
* Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour to the Chair of the Parish Council, Parish Clerk or parents/carers, as appropriate.

**Hiring of facilities to groups for use with children, young children** **or vulnerable adults**

The Parish Council will require the hirer to:

* Have public liability insurance.
* Have a suitable safeguarding policy and/or agree to work to the Parish
* Council’s policy and relevant guidance.
* Ensure leaders make their members aware of the Parish Council Policy and ensure that it is followed whilst using parish facilities.
* Ensure leaders have valid enhanced DBS checks as appropriate and know where the first aid boxes are and how to summon help from the Emergency Services.
* Do risk assessments for individual activities.

**SECTION 3**

**Safe Working Practice**

All users of Parish Facilities must follow the policy and procedures at all times. For example, they should:

* Never leave children, young people unattended with adults who have not been subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
* Plan activities to involve more than one person being present or at least in sight or hearing of others. Alternatively, record, or inform others of their whereabouts and intended action.
* Where possible, have male and female leaders working with a mixed group.
* Ensure registers are complete and attendees are marked in and signed out (under 8’s must be collected by a parent/carer).
* Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without written permission from their parents/carers.
* Ensure they have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire procedures.
* When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

**SECTION 4**

**Allegations against staff and volunteers**

The Parish Council will ensure that any allegations made against staff/volunteers will be dealt with swiftly and in accordance with these procedures. No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with Devon County Council Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):** 01392 384964 Email: childsc.localauthoritydesignatedofficersecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Outside of working hours the Emergency Duty Team (0845 6000388) can give advice (Monday to Thursday, 5.00pm – 9.00am, Friday to Monday, 4.00pm – 9.00am, Bank Holidays, 24 hours) and/or in the event of an emergency situation arising, the police.

The individual who first received/witnessed the concern should make a full written record of

what was seen, heard and/or told as soon as possible after observing the incident/receiving

the report. It is important that the report is an accurate description. This report must be made available on request from either the police and/or M.A.S.H.

**Whistleblowing**

All Parish Councillors, 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 as to how to handle such allegations. **The Parish Council must NOT make a judgment on whether the allegations have merit for further investigation, this decision must be for the LADO team.**

**What should be a cause for concern**

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child.

The Parish Council are committed to ensuring the safety of all users of our services and facilities and take our responsibilities seriously. We regularly work with other agencies and Devon County Council to ensure compliance with changing laws and guidelines in relation to safeguarding.

The Parish Council confirms this safeguarding policy will be updated as and when such legislative/best practice changes take place or at least annually.

Adopted at Chittlehampton Parish Council Meeting held on ………………….

Signed: …………………………….

Print name: ………………………..

Position: Chair

Reviewed:

Next Review Date: May 2025

**Appendix 1:**

**Useful Contacts/Support Organisations**

If you have concern that a child is being harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, you must not keep these concerns to yourself. Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. You need to ensure that you either speak to your own organisations Nominated Safeguarding Lead or the Devon Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) both of whom can listen to and record your concern, and then take appropriate action.

In Devon, these are the numbers that you can ring for advice and to make a referral:

* Devon M.A.S.H Contact Details Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (M.A.S.H) PO Box 723 Exeter EX1 9QS Tel: 0345 155 1071 E-mail: mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk Fax: 01392 448951
* Devon Early Help Team 0345 1551071
* Devon Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) 01392 384964
* Devon Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) 0845 6000388
* The Devon Children and Families Partnership (DCFP) <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/>
* NSPCC 24-hour National Child Protection Helpline on 0808 800 5000
* **If you have reason to believe that a child is at immediate risk of harm, ring the police on 999**