SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This policy will enable Brookenby Parish Council to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe, children, young people and adults who may be at risk in the community.

Policy Statement

The policy is in place in order for councillors to work to prevent abuse and know what to do should a concern arise.

They will enable Brookenby Parish Council to:

• Promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm and abuse occurring.

• Ensure that any allegations of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing the abuse is supported.

Definitions

Child

"Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday". Children Act 1989.

Adults at Risk

Anyone over the age of 18 years who may be unable to protect themselves from abuse, harm or exploitation, which may be by reason of illness, age, mental illness, disability or other types of physical or mental impairment. Gov.uk.

Types of Abuse

There are four main types of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. It is important to note that self-neglect is part of neglect.

Adults may also experience financial abuse.

Responsibilities of the Parish Council

• To accept the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures, to provide a Duty of Care for children, young people and adults at risk of abuse, safeguard their well-being and protect them from abuse.

• To raise awareness of safeguarding to ensure that everyone can play their part in

preventing and identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.

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• To ensure that all councillors, volunteers and any paid members of staff are familiar with the policy and any associated procedures.

• To maintain confidentiality, and where appropriate, obtain permission from adults before sharing information about them with another agency.

The safeguarding of a child or an adult who is at risk or if a crime has been committed will override any need for consent.

• To ensure that all new Councillors are provided with a copy of the safeguarding policy.

• To ensure all contractors/partners, where appropriate, working directly with the Parish Council meets the safeguarding standards as expected by the Parish Council.

• To monitor and evaluate the policy annually or in the light of any changes to government legislation and guidance.

• To ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that everyone is safe and secure in any

facility or environment it provides or facilitates.

Responding to Abuse or an Allegation

• Reassure the person concerned.

• Listen to what they are saying.

• Remain calm and do not show shock or disbelief.

• Tell them that the information will be treated seriously.

• Ask questions to ensure you gather the full facts but do not start to investigate or ask detailed probing questions.

• Don't promise to keep it a secret.

• Tell the child or adult at risk what you are going to do next to get help to keep him/her safe.

• Comply with the Parish Council's Data Protection Policy

Recording an Allegation

• Use the adult at risk/child's words where possible.

• Record what they are saying.

• Record what you have been told/witnessed as soon as possible.

Making a Referral

Please dial 999 if the person is in immediate danger.

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For Concerns about a Child

Contact Lincolnshire County Council's Children's Customer Service Centre on 01522 782111 if you are worried about any child or young person (up to the age of 18).

For Concerns about an Adult

If you are worried about the safety of an adult please contact Lincolnshire County Council Adult Social Care on 01522 782155 to report your concerns.

Out of Hours Contact

Out of office hours (including weekends and Bank Holidays), if you have concerns for a child, young person, or an adult at risk please call Lincolnshire County Council's Emergency Line on 01522 782333

Any concerns regarding the safety of children or vulnerable adults in the village should be reported immediately to the relevant authority

More information can be found at:

https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/health-education-family/safeguarding-children-young-people-adults

Adopted 6th January 2026
Review Date: January 2027