

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Reviewed and Adopted 08.07.2025

Introduction

Leigh Parish Council is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and everyone has a responsibility to protect them.

This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Leigh Parish Council facilities. The Parish Council will review this policy annually.

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

The policy also applies to any individual using the parish council facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Definitions

Children's Act 1989 defines a child as anyone who has not yet reached the age of 18.

The Department of Health defines a vulnerable adult as a person aged 18 or over who may need community care services because of a disability (mental or other), age, or illness. A person is also considered vulnerable if they are unable to look after themselves, protect themselves from harm or exploitation or are unable to report abuse.

Abuse of children (Working Together)

- Physical – may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm.
- Neglect – the persistent failure to meet basic essential needs of a child whether physical, psychological or emotional, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's development of the child's development, may also involve a failure to protect a child from physical harm or danger.
- Sexual – involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to participate in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend, or to which they are unable to give informed consent, or which violate social taboos of family role; includes non-contact activities.
- Emotional – persistent ill treatment of child that causes harm by lack of love and affection, or threats, verbal attacks, taunting or shouting.

Types of abuse for adults

- Physical – being hit, slapped, pushed or restrained, which results in burns, cuts, black eyes, and internal injuries.
- Verbal – being humiliated, isolated, controlled and harassed. This kind of abuse affects the emotional health of a vulnerable adult.
- Sexual – including indecent exposure, sexual harassment and rape.
- Financial – stealing money from vulnerable adults or misusing their money.
- Self Abuse – not providing them with enough food and the right medicines or not helping them wash and change their clothes.

Allegations against staff and volunteers

All staff and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult.

If an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the clerk of the parish council.

Responding to Abuse or an Allegation

- Reassure the person concerned
- Listen to what they are saying
- Ask enough questions to understand what has happened
- Don't promise to keep it a secret
- Tell the child, young person or vulnerable adult who you are going to contact for help

Recording concerns or allegations

Concerns should be reported as soon as possible and within no more than 24 hours.

Safeguarding Contact Details

If a child or vulnerable adult is believed to be in immediate danger and needs urgent help, the police should be informed on 999.

In other cases where this is a concern these can be reported to Dorset Council

Children and Young People – Family Support and Advice Line

01305 228558

Out of hours – 01305 22100

Adults - 01305 221016

All concerns should also be reported to the clerk – leighparishclerk@gmail.com