

Safeguarding Policy

Adopted by Council on 9 July 2024

Minute ref: 8.2., page 51-2024

To be reviewed in July 25



1. Policy Statement

In the interests of child protection and the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults, Ruskington Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children¹ and vulnerable adults² are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council within the parish.

2. Policy Objective:

- To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable adults.
- To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation.
- To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.
- As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children and vulnerable adults, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

3. Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Ruskington Parish Council should any child protection issue or any issues with vulnerable adults arise during their work.

4. Responsibilities & Procedures

All new Councillors are to be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and are required to acknowledge (by signature) they will abide by it. Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by the Council or the Chairman after consultation with the Clerk following the completion of a risk assessment.

Prior to any Parish Council organised event involving children or vulnerable persons, the Council will appoint an appropriately skilled Safeguarding Officer who must:

- Be aware of the potential risks they may face whilst carrying out their duties and deal with them in accordance with the Directions within this Policy. In particular they must ensure:
- There is a minimum of two adults present when supervising children.
- They do not play physical contact games.

- Adults always wear appropriate clothing, including - where applicable - PPE, Hi Viz clothing and visible forms of identification.
- That accidents are recorded in an accident book.
- They never do anything of a personal nature for a young person.

In addition, the appointed councillor or staff member must:

- Keep records in an incident book of any allegations a young person may make to any committee member or volunteer. The incident book is available at the Parish Office.
- If there is a child abuse incident or allegation, it must be reported to the Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and referred to the Council for further action.

The RPC will:

- Ensure that facilities offered by the Parish Council will be inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation.
- Be proactive in sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents, and carers.
- Ensure that Contractors engaged by the Parish Council to work in areas where children or vulnerable adults may be at risk, must provide their Safeguarding Policy before commencement of work.
- Insist that any organisation which may make contact with children or vulnerable adults shall be required to show proof of its own appropriate Safeguarding Policy before being allowed to participate in the use of any council owned facilities.

5. Declaration

Ruskington Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect.

All members of Ruskington Parish Council should read the Safeguarding Policy. Having read the Policy, they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities.

¹ For Children's Safeguarding purposes this is up to the date of the 18th birthday, in line with legislation and statutory guidance (Working Together) - Lincolnshire County Council

² In the context of adult safeguarding, the Care Act 2014 moved away from the definition of adults as vulnerable and instead shifted the focus to circumstances. The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

* has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)

* is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect

* As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

Lincolnshire County Council offer free online safeguarding courses via

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/lscp/3

I confirm that this safeguarding policy is understood, and the measures will be followed:

Please note: If you do not understand any part of this policy please speak to the Clerk of Council.

Name	Signature	Date