

## **BREDGAR PARISH COUNCIL**

### **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS – SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

#### **Introduction**

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Parish Council facilities. The policy will be reviewed by the parish council annually.

#### **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

#### **To whom this policy applies**

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

#### **Promoting a safe environment**

In order to achieve a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Bredgar Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture throughout its facilities. In order to achieve this, Bredgar Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments.
- Ensure that any employees, and Councillors are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Make available on public notice boards and Councillors, the contact details of the relevant agencies as set out in the Appendix below

#### **Duty**

Councillors volunteers and employees all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the designated Safeguarding Officer who will assess the incident; decide what appropriate action needs to be taken and contact the most appropriate key contact from those listed in the appendix of this document.

#### **Allegations against staff and volunteers**

All Councillors volunteers and employees should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

#### **Reporting Procedure**

The Parish will follow the Swale and KCC procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers, a copy of which can be found or on the through the SBC website. No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the Safeguarding Officer (contact details above).

## **Whistleblowing**

The Council recognises that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff, Councillors or volunteers fail to do so. All staff, Councillors 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 Safeguarding Officer.

## **What should be a cause for concern**

Staff and Volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or causes discomfort, distress or harm to a vulnerable adult. A victim may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and other children, and abuse can occur in any family OR in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location. Abuse falls into four main categories: 1. Physical Abuse 2. Emotional Abuse 3. Sexual Abuse 4. Neglect. All staff, Councillors and volunteers need to have an awareness that there are many other forms of abuse.

Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the Swale Borough Council website and Bredgar Parish Council supports the safeguarding policies adopted by Swale Borough Council.

Reviewed - November 2024

## **Appendix - Key Contacts**

### **Safeguarding Officer**

Phone: 01795 417457

Email: [safeguarding@swale.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding@swale.gov.uk)

This email must be used to ensure all safeguarding concerns or questions are picked up by the Officers and wider team.

### **Kent County Council**

Kent County Council Adults Social Services – 03000 41 61 61

Social Services Children & Families – 03000 41 11 11

Social Services Out of Hours – 03000 41 91 91

### **Kent Police**

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101

### **Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KCSMP)**

KCSMP is set-up as a result of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and is led by the Local Authority (Kent County Council), Kent Police and Health to ensure partners work together to safeguard children.

Further details on the KSCMP are available at <https://www.kscmp.org.uk>.