

Blackwell Parish Council	
Safeguarding Policy	
Date Approved	Review Date

Introduction

Blackwell Parish Council makes a positive contribution to a strong and safe community and recognises the right of every individual to stay safe.

Blackwell Parish Council staff, councillors, volunteers and caretaker contractors come into contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults through the following activities:

- Hiring out facilities to local organisations and businesses that work with children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- Event put on by Blackwell Parish Council for local people;
- Hiring out facilities to local people for parties and events.

This policy seeks to ensure that Blackwell Parish Council undertakes its responsibilities with regard to the protection of children, young people and/or vulnerable adults and will respond to concerns appropriately. This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless, of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

This policy establishes a framework to support paid and unpaid staff, caretakers and users of the Village Hall facilities in their practices and clarifies the Council's expectations.

DEFINITIONS

Safeguarding is about embedding practices throughout the organisation to ensure the protection of children, young people and/or vulnerable adults wherever possible. In contrast, child and adult protection is about responding to circumstances that arise.

Abuse is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority. This can be caused by those infliction harm or those who fail to act to prevent harm. Abuse is not restricted to any socio-economic group, gender or culture.

It can take a number of forms, including, but not confined to, the following:

- Physical abuse;
- Sexual abuse;
- Psychological or emotional abuse;
- Neglect or omission to act;
- Financial or material abuse;
- Child sexual exploitation;
- Modern slavery;
- Self neglect;
- Domestic abuse;
- Institutional abuse;
- Discriminatory abuse;
- Harassment;
- Radicalisation
- FGM

More detailed definitions can be found on the NSPCC Learning website - [Definitions and signs of child abuse \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/help-from-social-services-and-charities/abuse-and-neglect-vulnerable-adults/) – and on the NHS website - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/help-from-social-services-and-charities/abuse-and-neglect-vulnerable-adults/>

Definition of a child:

A child is under the age of 18 (as defined in the United Nations convention on the Rights of a Child).

Definition of a vulnerable adult:

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited. This may include a person who is elderly and frail; has mental illness including dementia; has a physical or sensory disability; has a learning disability; has a severe physical illness; is a substance misuser; is homeless.

RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff, caretaker contractors and volunteers have a responsibility to follow the guidance laid out in this policy and related policies, and to pass on any welfare concerns using the required procedures.

The lead Safeguarding person is the Parish Clerk.

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.

Blackwell Parish Council will endeavour to keep the parish facilities safe for use by children and vulnerable adults.

Blackwell Parish Council wants to promote good practice by being an excellent role model, contribute to discussions about safeguarding and positively involve people in developing safe practices. The clerk will ensure the policy is updated and available for anyone that requests it.

IMPLEMENTATION

Blackwell Parish Council will implement the following safeguarding aspects:

- Safe recruitment practises including references.
- DBS checks undertaken where roles require direct contact with children and/or vulnerable adults
- Appropriate training where required
- Monitoring whether concerns are being reported and actioned
- Checking policies are up to date and relevant
- Checking that organisations who work directly with children and young people who use the parish facilities have their own appropriate practices and policies in place
- Making sure that parish facilities are kept safe for use by children and vulnerable adults

ALLEGATIONS MANAGEMENT

The process for raising and dealing with allegations is as follows:

Step One: any member of staff or volunteer from Blackwell Parish Council is required to report any concerns in the first instance to the Parish Clerk. If you are able, put your concerns in writing. **If someone is in immediate danger** then Step one is for the person who has the safeguarding concerns to report directly to one of the numbers/websites below themselves.

Step Two: the Clerk to contact the local authority for advice.

If you think someone is in danger, the **Derbyshire Child Protection Service** and the **Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board** can both be contacted on **01629 533190**.

Alternatively, contact the **Police** on **101**.

Child Protection service: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/children-and-families/child-protection/child-protection-service.aspx>

Safeguarding Adults Board: <https://www.derbyshiresab.org.uk/home.aspx>

Step Three: follow advice provided. Record all communications and outcomes on the Safeguarding report form.

MANAGING INFORMATION

Information will be gathered, recorded and stored in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Policy.

All staff must be aware that they have a professional duty to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. The public interest in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults may override confidentiality interests. However, information will be shared on a need to know basis only.

LEGISLATION

- The Care Act 2016
- Working together to Safeguard Children 2015
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Children Act 2004
- The Adoption and Children Act 2002:
- Care Standards Act 2000
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
- The Police Act – CRB 1997
- The Children Act 1989
- Mental Health Act 1983
- NHS and Community Care Act 1990
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

FURTHER ADVICE AND SUPPORT

At any stage you may wish to seek further advice or support from the following sources:

Child Protection:

NSPCC- www.nspcc.org.uk or 0116 234 7223

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline- 0808 800 5000

Criminal Records Bureau- www.disclosure.gov.uk

Save the Children- www.scfuk.org.uk

Early Years Partnerships- based in County Council Social Services depts

Vulnerable adults:

Action on Elder Abuse: helpline 0808 808 8141

Age Concern- helpline 0800 009966

REVIEW

To be reviewed annually.

This policy is fully supported by the members of Blackwell Parish Council	
Signed by	Chairman, Blackwell Parish Council
Date	

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Appendices

APPENDIX ONE

Definitions and signs of child abuse (from www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk)

Child abuse - definitions and signs



Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is when a child is deprived of love, warmth and affection or is persistently treated negatively, inconsistently, inappropriately or is rejected. This may include the child being constantly told that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate or the parent or carer having unreasonable and unrealistic expectations of the child's abilities or making the child being made to feel frightened or in danger.

Recognising emotional abuse

Signs of emotional abuse include:

- very low self esteem, often with an inability to accept praise or trust in adults
- excessive clinging and attention seeking behaviour
- over anxious - being excessively 'watchful', constantly checking or being over anxious to please withdrawn and socially isolated

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocation.

Recognising physical abuse

Bruising is a concern when bruises:

- can be seen on parts of the body not normally harmed through play
- appear in or around the mouth (especially in young babies)
- appear as small 'grasp' or finger marks to a child's arms or legs
- look like they have been caused by a stick or belt
- appear to be of different ages (colour) in the same area
- appear the same on both sides of the body, legs, head or arms
- appear as bite marks especially when the marks appear to be those of an adult or older child (more than 3cm across)
- are seen in a baby which is not mobile

Most fractures are treated by a hospital. It is concerning when a child is not taken for treatment if they are suffering pain, swelling or discolouration over a bone or joint. Although it may not always be possible to know whether a child has a fractured bone it is difficult for a parent or carer to be unaware that the child has been hurt. It is rare for children under the age of one to sustain a fracture accidentally.

It can be difficult to distinguish between a burn or scald that has been caused accidentally or non-accidentally. As with fractures all burns and scalds should receive medical treatment.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Sexual activities may involve physical contact such as sexual intercourse, buggery or non-penetrative acts.

Sexual activities may also include non-contact activities like involving children in looking at pornography, creating pornography, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Recognising sexual abuse

Signs of sexual abuse include:

- sexually explicit talk or play, especially in prepubescent children
- sexual behaviour, such as pretending to have sex during play
- sexually provocative relationships with adults
- itching, redness, soreness or unexplained bleeding from a child's vagina or anus
- bruising, cuts or marks to the genital area
- repeated genital infections

Neglect

Neglect is when there is a constant failure to meet the child's basic physical or psychological needs in a way that is likely to cause serious damage to the child's health or development. Neglect can include failing to provide a child with adequate food, shelter or clothing or failing to protect a child from harm or danger or failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

Recognising neglect

Signs of neglect include:

- the child frequently appearing hungry
- the child consistently appearing unkempt or inappropriately dressed for the weather or smelling
- failure to seek medical attention
- failure to prevent accidental injury

More detailed definitions can be found on the NSPCC Learning website - [Definitions and signs of child abuse \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning/definitions-and-signs-of-child-abuse/)

APPENDIX TWO

Abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults.

As defined by the NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/help-from-social-services-and-charities/abuse-and-neglect-vulnerable-adults/>

Abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults

Everyone has the right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Abuse and neglect can occur anywhere: in your own home or a public place, while you are in hospital or attending a day centre, or in a college or care home.

Different forms of abuse and neglect

There are many forms of abuse and neglect.

Sexual abuse

This includes:

- indecent exposure
- sexual harassment
- inappropriate looking or touching
- sexual teasing or innuendo
- sexual photography
- being forced to watch pornography or sexual acts
- being forced or pressured to take part in sexual acts
- rape

Physical abuse

This includes:

- being hit, slapped, pushed or restrained

- being denied food or water
- not being helped to go to the bathroom when you need to
- misuse of your medicines

Psychological abuse

This includes:

- emotional abuse
- threats to hurt or abandon you
- stopping you from seeing people
- humiliating, blaming, controlling, intimidating or harassing you
- verbal abuse
- cyberbullying and isolation
- an unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support networks

Domestic abuse

This is typically an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is, or has been, an intimate partner or family member.

Discriminatory abuse

This includes some forms of harassment, slurs or unfair treatment relating to your:

- race
- gender and gender identity
- age
- disability
- sexual orientation
- religion

Financial abuse

This could be someone stealing money or other valuables from you. Or it might be that someone appointed to look after your money on your behalf is using it inappropriately or coercing you to spend it in a way you're not happy with.

Internet scams and doorstep crime are also common forms of financial abuse.

Neglect

Neglect includes not being provided with enough food or with the right kind of food, or not being taken proper care of.

Leaving you without help to wash or change dirty or wet clothes, not getting you to a doctor when you need one or not making sure you have the right medicines all count as neglect.

Spotting signs of abuse in older people

It's not always easy to spot the signs of abuse. Someone being abused may make excuses for why they're bruised, may not want to go out or talk to people, or may be short of money.

It's important to know the signs of abuse and, where they are identified, gently share your concerns with the person you think may be being abused. If you wait, hoping the person will tell you what's been happening to them, it could delay matters and allow the abuse to continue.

Behavioural signs of abuse in an older person include:

- becoming quiet and withdrawn
- being aggressive or angry for no obvious reason
- looking unkempt, dirty or thinner than usual
- sudden changes in their character, such as appearing helpless, depressed or tearful
- physical signs – such as bruises, wounds, fractures or other untreated injuries
- the same injuries happening more than once
- not wanting to be left by themselves, or alone with particular people
- being unusually lighthearted and insisting there's nothing wrong

Also, their home may be cold, or unusually dirty or untidy, or you might notice things missing.

Other signs include a sudden change in their finances, such as not having as much money as usual to pay for shopping or regular outings, or getting into debt. Watch out for any official or financial documents that seem unusual, and for documents relating to their finances that suddenly go missing.

If you feel someone you know is showing signs of being abused, talk to them to see if there's anything you can do to help. If they're being abused, they may not want to talk about it straight away, especially if they've become used to making excuses for their injuries or changes in personality.

Don't ignore your concerns, though. Doing so could allow any abuse to carry on or escalate.

I'm worried about someone who may be experiencing abuse or neglect – what should I do?

Start by talking to the person in private, if you feel able to do so. Mention some of the things that concern you – for instance, that they've become depressed and withdrawn, have been losing weight or seem to be short of money.

Let them talk as much as they want to. However, be mindful that if they've been abused, they may be reluctant to talk about it because they are afraid of making the situation worse, don't want to cause trouble, or may be experiencing coercion or threats.

It's best not to promise the person that you won't tell anyone what's been said. If an adult is being abused or neglected, it's important to find help for them and stop the harm. Stay calm while the person is talking, even if you're upset by what you hear, otherwise they may become more upset themselves and stop telling you what's been going on.

It can be very difficult for an abused or neglected person to talk about what's been happening to them. Unless you're concerned for their immediate health and safety and feel it's vital to act straight away, give them time to think about what they'd like to do.

If you're right and the person has been abused or neglected, ask them what they would like you to do.

Let them know who can help them and tell them you can seek help on their behalf if they want or if it's difficult for them to do so themselves.

It's important to listen to what they say and not charge into action if this isn't what they want.