**Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council**

**Safeguarding Policy**

**Date Ratified:** 15.07.2025

**Next review date:** July 2026

**INTRODUCTION**

Safeguarding is the process of protecting children and adults at risk of abuse and significant harm. Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure a duty of care for children and adults at risk when accessing our services and encountering our staff and elected Members. We believe that safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility.

The policy outlines the responsibilities of Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council, all staff, elected Members, suppliers of commissioned services, volunteers, and visitors in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk and the safeguarding procedures for reporting a concern.

**Safeguarding Children**

For the purposes of this policy, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

* Protecting children from maltreatment
* Preventing the impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development
* Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
* Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

(Children Act, 2004)

**Safeguarding Adults**

The Care Act 2014 provides a legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system must protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Safeguarding vulnerable adults means:

* Protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect
* People and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risk and the experience of abuse and neglect
* People and organisations making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action
* Recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear, or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being.

**POLICY AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE**

* To guide members of Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council should any safeguarding issue arise during its activities.
* To set out the roles and responsibilities of Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council in helping to prevent any safeguarding issues arising during its activities.
* To promote the general welfare, health and development of children, young people and vulnerable adults by encouraging an awareness of safeguarding issues and to be able to respond to concerns or incidents where appropriate as a local government organisation.
* As Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council does not provide direct care or supervision services to children, young persons or vulnerable adults, it would expect that any of those persons using Parish Council facilities do so with the consent and appropriate supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.
* To contribute to systems for ensuring that all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit the risk of safeguarding issues arising.

**DEFINITIONS**

* Children or Young People – anyone under the age of 18 years.
* Vulnerable Adults – anyone over the age of 18 years and who is (a) unable to care for themselves, or (b) unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation, or (c) may be in need of community care services.
* Types of abuse:
* Physical
* Domestic
* Sexual
* Psychological
* Financial or material
* Discriminatory
* Organisational or institutional
* Neglect and acts of omission
* Self-neglect
* Modern slavery

**WHO THE POLICY APPLIES TO**

* Anyone working for or on behalf of the Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, including but not limited to employees, councillors, volunteers or contractors.
* Any individual, group or organisation using Parish Council facilities for the purpose of delivering any services to children, young persons or vulnerable adults where the Parish Council can reasonably be expected to be aware that the delivery is taking place.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

All individuals involved in the operation, maintenance or development of Parish Council activities or facilities have a duty to safeguard children, young persons and vulnerable adults. However, notwithstanding that duty, the Parish Council has designated the Parish Clerk to act as the Safeguarding Lead for the Parish Council activities and facilities. The responsibilities of the Safeguarding Lead include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Ensuring that a DBS check is obtained at the appropriate level and where relevant, for employees who may work regularly in close proximity to children, young persons and vulnerable adults, and for volunteers and councillors for specific activities where appropriate, and that these checks are renewed at appropriate intervals.
* Ensuring that individuals working for or on behalf of the Parish Council are aware of the risks they may face regarding safeguarding issues in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties and ensuring that appropriate uniform and/or visible identification is worn/carried.
* To hold and maintain a system for recording safeguarding issues identified by themselves in their capacity as Safeguarding Lead or reported to them by anyone working for or on behalf of the Parish Council, or reported to them by a member of the public.
* Immediately informing the Chair of Council of any safeguarding issues that they become aware of and informing Dorset Council emergency safeguarding services regarding any actual safeguarding concerns.
* Ensuring that all relevant parties are aware of the Safeguarding Policy, the identity and contact details of the Safeguarding Lead and the process for reporting concerns to them.
* Seeking confirmation that any organisation using Parish Council facilities for activities involving children, young persons and vulnerable adults has their own Safeguarding Policy (where it is reasonable to expect that the Parish Council and/or the Safeguarding Lead is aware that the activity will be taking place).
* Seeking confirmation that any contractors carrying out works which will involve working in close proximity, and on a regular and/or long-term basis, to children, young persons and vulnerable adults on Parish Council land or property has their own Safeguarding Policy.