

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Pevensey Parish Council (PPC) is the lowest level of government and manages local issues such as grass cutting, playgrounds, street lighting and occasionally events for its local residents in two villages. Pevensey and Pevensey Bay. The population of those villages totals about 3,500, according to the 2011 census. PPC obtains its income from some rentals and from an annual precept from Wealden District Council.

PPC has one part time paid employee and 13 Councillors, all of whom are elected volunteers. PPC uses contractors for various types of repair, replacement or maintenance work. There is no direct unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults, but nevertheless the Council adheres to safeguarding policies and has appointed a Lead Councillor, who is also involved with Friends of Pevensey Playgrounds with whom Council is involved for the management of its playgrounds.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive and Council services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- To provide staff and volunteers, when needed, with the overarching principles that guide the approach to child protection

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of PPC including Councillors, paid staff, volunteers or contractors.

Similar principles apply for vulnerable adults, with whom we may come into contact.

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable adults in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/>

Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside other Council documents. Councillors will not have unsupervised access to children as parents will be present at events. Where third parties are used to run events, PPC will ensure that policies are in place to safeguard children. This will include processes to ensure child protection issues are reported and dealt with and that any volunteers or staff are properly trained in child protection and health and safety.

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is important in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership, when needed, with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated lead Council member for safeguarding who will ensure that child protection measures are followed if needed.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice
- Ensuring that effective management for staff and volunteers, used by providers, through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all their staff and volunteers know about following policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- Recruiting and selection staff and volunteers used by providers is done safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance; more information about this is available from the Information Commissioners Office <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations>
- Using procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we seek advice to help us deal effectively with any bullying that arise.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place and seek advice where appropriate
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment, when needed for children, young people, staff and volunteers by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Building a safeguarding culture.

Contact Details

Nominated Child Protections Lead

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NSPCC Helpline

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