GRINDON & THORPE THEWLES PARISH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Who is a vulnerable person?
Vulnerable persons could include:
· children under 18 years of age
· adults with learning difficulties or physical disability
· frail elderly people.

The importance of child protection is well known but we all owe a duty of care to all those using premises, equipment and facilities both indoor and outdoor in our village, which means that the safety of those who cannot read warning signs, who are frail or physically less able, needs to be borne in mind. Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish Council fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection for children under the age of 18 and as such this policy is pertinent to the Council's role as an owner and operator of the children's play area, the Wildlife Garden and the Village Green.

This policy applies to all staff, councillors, contractors and volunteers.

Principles
All members of Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish Council have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of village facilities and those who may come into contact with vulnerable users. They should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person.

This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of culture, disability, ethnicity, faith, gender, or sexuality.

Policy

1 No member of the Council will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless they have undertaken a current DBS check.

2 Any suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable person will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily.

3 The Council will, in exercising its statutory functions, ensure to the best of its ability that the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, sexual or verbal, and from bullying, exclusion, physical violence or shouting. Racism or sexism towards children or vulnerable adults will not be tolerated.

4 All Councillors will be made aware of this policy.

5 The Council will ensure that young people and those who are vulnerable are welcome to Council meetings and will feel safe and secure in the environment.

Reporting Incidents
The nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult representative is the Clerk. The Clerk will have responsibility for reporting any concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to Child and Adult Services.

The clerk will:
· know who to contact at the local authority.

For adults – Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council First Contact Team:

- telephone: 01642 527764
- minicom: 01642 527769
- email: FirstContactAdults@stockton.gov.uk

All other times contact the Emergency Duty Team: 01642 524552.

For children – Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub:
- telephone : 01642 130080
- email: childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk

Out of hours - Children's Services Emergency Duty Team:
- telephone: 01642 552552

· know about helplines and other sources of help for children and young people and vulnerable adults.

Adopted: 14 February 2023
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