

# **OARE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Adopted: June 2023

Reviewed: May 2024

Oare Parish Council is committed to the health, wellbeing and safety of all children, young people under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults who are either resident in or visiting the village.

None of the activities of the parish council involves any councillor coming into contact with children or vulnerable adults. However, all councillors are asked to remember that it is their responsibility to ensure that:

- Their behaviour is appropriate at all times.
- They observe the rules established for the safety and security of young and vulnerable people.
- They follow the procedures in the event of suspicion, disclosure or allegation of abuse.
- They recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed.

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and to protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means: protecting children from abuse and maltreatment, preventing harm to children's health or development, ensuring children grow up with safe provision of safe and effective care (NSPCC).

The safeguarding regulation is set out in the Children's Act (1989 and 2004).

Abuse comes in several forms but is defined as:

- Physical – eg hitting, burning, choking, biting.
- Sexual – eg forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities, grooming, trafficking.
- Emotional – eg seeing or hearing ill treatment of another (in a domestic violence situation).
- Neglect – eg failing to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter.

In the event of their being approached by a member of the public, young person, child or vulnerable adult on any matter concerning a resident in or person visiting the village, councillors will follow the procedures detailed below.

- Listen to the child or young person and repeat their words if necessary.
- Do not question, prompt or lead.
- Do not pass judgement on what you are being told.
- Do not make promises regarding confidentiality.
- Reassure the child or young person that they have done the right thing.
- Record everything as soon as possible afterwards whilst it is still fresh in your mind.
- Pass on the information to the relevant authority (see below) as soon as possible.
- Try to ensure another adult is present at all times when dealing with a potential safeguarding issue.

Any concerns regarding the safety of children or vulnerable adults in the parish should be reported immediately to Kent County Council:

[www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/protecting-children/report-abuse](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/protecting-children/report-abuse)

If someone is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.