Safeguarding Policy for Peasenhall Parish Council

This policy will enable Peasenhall Parish Council to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe both vulnerable adults and children and young people in the community.

Policy Statement

The policy is in place in order for councillors to work to prevent abuse and know what to do should a concern arise. They will enable Peasenhall Parish Council to:

- Promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm and abuse occurring.
- Ensure that any allegations of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing the abuse is supported.

Definitions Child

"Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday". Children Act 1989.

Adults at Risk

An individual who "Have needs for care and support, is experiencing, or at risk of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect". Care Act 2014.

Related Policies

This policy will need to be read in conjunction with appropriate Parish Council policies.

Responsibilities of the Parish Council

- To accept the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures, to provide a Duty of Care for children, young people and adults at risk of abuse, safeguard their wellbeing and protect them from abuse.
- To raise awareness of safeguarding to ensure that everyone can play their part in preventing and identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.
- To ensure that all councillors, volunteers and any paid members of staff are familiar with the policy and any associated procedures.
- To work with other agencies within the framework of both the Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB) and the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB).

- To act within its confidentiality policy and will usually gain permission from adults before sharing information about them with another agency. The safeguarding of a child or an adult who is at risk or if a crime has been committed will override any need for consent.
- To make a safeguarding referral to Customer First as appropriate i.e. if there is an immediate danger or the child/adult is at risk of harm.
- To ensure that all new Councillors are provided with a copy of the safeguarding policy.
- To ensure all contractors/partners working directly with the Parish Council meets the safeguarding standards as expected by the Parish Council (A copy of the safeguarding policy must be given to any contractor/partner).
- To require all Councillors/volunteers and anyone paid to adopt and abide by this safeguarding policy and to understand their responsibilities therein.
- To monitor and evaluate the policy annually or in the light of any changes to Government legislation and guidance.
- To ensure there is a designated lead person for safeguarding in the Parish Council.
- To ensure that the designated safeguarding lead undertakes LSCB/SAB endorsed safeguarding children and safeguarding adults training for this role and that they attend refresher training every three years.
- To ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that everyone is safe and secure in any facility or environment it provides or facilitates.
- DBS checks will be required if any Councillor, volunteer of paid member of staff is required is required to teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children or provides advice, guidance to children and/or is carrying out health care, personal care, assisting with cash, bills or shopping or with affairs or transportation for any adult.
- To ensure records are kept of any referrals and any notes, records of conversations concerning that referral are kept in the folder and that it is stored in a secure place with limited access to designated people.

Responding to Abuse or an Allegation

- Reassure the person concerned.
- Listen to what they are saying.
- Record what they are saying.
- Record what you have been told/witnessed as soon as possible.
- Remain calm and do not show shock or disbelief.
- Tell them that the information will be treated seriously.
- Ask questions to ensure you gather the full facts but do not start to investigate or ask detailed probing questions.
- Use the vulnerable adult's/child's words where possible.
- Don't promise to keep it a secret.

- Tell the child or vulnerable adult what you are going to do next to get help to keep him/her safe.

- Comply with the Parish Council's Data Protection Policy.

Types of Abuse

There are four main types of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. It is important to note that self-neglect is part of neglect.

Allegations Made Against a Councillor/Volunteer/Paid Member of Staff

This should be reported to the designated safeguarding lead. If appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead will consult with/make a referral to the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer). The procedures for LADO referrals can be found on the LSCB/SAB websites.

http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/

https://www.suffolkas.org/

Making a Referral

Please dial 999 if the person is in immediate danger.

For Concerns about a Child

Complete a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) online: http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/working-with-children/how-to-make-a-referral/ or telephone Customer First on **0808 800 4005.**

For Concerns about an Adult

Click on the 'Make a Referral' button on the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board website https://www.suffolkas.org/ or telephone Customer First on **0808 800 4005.**

For advice regarding a referral, professionals can contact the MASH Professional Consultation Line on **0345 606 1499.**

Peasenhall Parish Council Safeguarding Officer is

Her e-mail is:

Phone:

Mobile:

APPENDIX – TYPES & SIGNS OF ABUSE

Categories of abuse

Self-neglect
This covers a wide range of behaviour, but it can be broadly defined as neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health, or surroundings. An example of self-neglect is behaviour such as hoarding.

Modern Slavery
This encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour, and domestic servitude.

Domestic Abuse
This includes psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse perpetrated by anyone within a person's family. It also includes so-called "honour" based violence.

Discrimination
Discrimination is abuse that centres on a difference or perceived difference, particularly with respect to race, gender, disability, or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act.

Organisational
This includes neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting, such as a hospital or care home, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. Organisational abuse can range from one off incidents to ongoing ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

Physical
This includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, restraint, and misuse of medication. It can also include inappropriate sanctions.

Sexual
This includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault, or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented, or was pressured into consenting.

Financial or Material This includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, and coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions. It can also include the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.

Neglect and Acts of Omission
This includes ignoring medical or physical care needs and failing to provide access to appropriate health social care or educational services. It also includes the withdrawing of the necessities of life, including medication, adequate nutrition, and heating.

Emotional or Psychological

This includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation, or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Four Additional Types of Harm

There are four additional types of harm that are not included in The Care Act, but they are also relevant to safeguarding adults.

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online, or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages. It can also involve using online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating, or isolating another person. It includes various different types of bullying, including racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special education needs and disabilities. The main difference is that, instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

Forced Marriage

This is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry.

Mate Crime

"Mate crime" is when "vulnerable people are befriending by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them" (Safety Network Project, ARC). It may not be an illegal act, but it still has a negative effect on the individual. A mate crime is carried out by someone the adult knows, and it often happens in private. In recent years there have been a number of Serious Care Reviews relating to people with a learning disability who were seriously harmed, or even murdered, by people who purported to be their friend.

Radicalisation

The aim of radicalisation is to inspire new recruits, embed extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals to the legitimacy of a cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.