

Haydon Parish Council – Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

1.2 This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Haydon Parish Council facilities.

1.3 This policy will be reviewed annually.

2. Definitions

2.1 Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18.

2.2 Vulnerable adult: anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation; or may need community care services.

3. To whom this policy applies

3.1 This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Haydon Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

4. Promoting a safe environment

4.1 In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Haydon Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this Haydon Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
- Ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
- Make available on public noticeboards and to employees and councillors relevant contact details

4.2 Employees, councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the authorities as soon as possible. The designated point of contact is Cllr Caitlin Kendall. Contact Cllr Kendall via haydonbridgeparish@gmail.com

5. Allegations against staff and volunteers

5.1 All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child, young person or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

5.2 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the Northumberland Safeguarding Children and Adults team.

Northumberland Safeguarding Children

Please ring:

Onecall: 01670 536400

Alternatively, complete an online referral form to Children's Services on the Northumberland County Council website.

Northumberland Safeguarding Adults

During office hours ring: 01670 536400

Out of office hours contact the Emergency Duty Team on: 0345 6005252

Alternatively, complete an online referral form to Adult Services on the Northumberland County Council website.

Other numbers

Northumbria Police – 101

NSPCC Helpline 0800 800 5000

You should always call 999 in an emergency – for example when someone's life is at risk or someone is seriously injured or critically ill.

6. Whistleblowing

6.1 We recognise that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.

6.2 All staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the Safeguarding Team at Northumberland County Council.

7. What should be a cause for concern

7.1 Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or vulnerable adult. A child or vulnerable adult may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and their peers, and abuse can occur in any family OR in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location.

7.2 Abuse falls into five main categories

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial abuse
- Neglect

7.3 Ideally, staff and volunteers who, through their duties, are required to engage with children or vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training, and where necessary such training will be facilitated by Haydon Parish Council.