



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 2019

For review July 2021

1. Policy Statement

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

Heckfield Parish Council will undertake all reasonable measures to promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adult. This Policy applies to councillors, employees, contractors and hirers.

However Heckfield Parish Council has no direct powers or responsibilities for Community or Children's groups or services and no Parish Council provision for childrens' play equipment or activities. The primary responsibility for the welfare of children or vulnerable adults rests with the responsible adult – parent / carer.

When on land managed by the Parish Council, or attending events organised by the Parish Council, children, young people or vulnerable adults do so with the consent of a parent, carer, or other responsible adult.

2. Definitions

2.1 Children and young people

- Anyone under the age of 18 years.

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 be in need of community care services.

2.3 Child abuse

- Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm.

3. Informing the Appropriate Authorities

While safeguarding is a general responsibility, it is not a general responsibility to determine if any abuse is taking place. Any concerns should be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Children's Services is dealt with by Hampshire County Council.

From the website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrenandyoungpeople/child-protection.htm>

'If you have any concerns because you think that a child might be being abused you should contact the Children's Services Department.

- 'During office hours (8.30am.5.00pm) Children's Services: 0300 555 1384
- 'At all other times out-of-hours Service: 0300 555 1373
- 'For all emergency situations call 999.'

4. Community Policing

As part of their ongoing commitment to policing the area, Hart North Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team are required by law to update / review their Community Priorities every three months. A Parish Council representative attends quarterly Policing Priorities meeting (held for Parish Councils & other stakeholders).

Police Community Support Officers attend local community events where possible – and also occasional Parish Council meetings where possible.