

## **THERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

#### **1. Policy Statement**

- 1.1 Therfield Parish Council, (the Parish Council), is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those engaged with the Parish Council and expects everyone to share this commitment.
- 1.2 All children, young people and adults at risk who participate in activities they choose, or are chosen for them, using services provided by the Parish Council have a right to feel safe and secure. The Parish Council will create and maintain safe and positive environments where such activities take place.

#### **2. To whom this policy applies**

- 2.1 This policy applies to all councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors working in partnership with the Parish Council. It also applies to anyone acting on the Parish Council's behalf while delivering any service to children, young people or adults at risk.
- 2.2 It is not the role of the Parish Council to investigate allegations of abuse but all councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors have a responsibility to take action when they suspect or recognise that a child or vulnerable adult may be a victim of significant harm or abuse.

#### **3. Definitions**

- 3.1 Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18 years.
- 3.2 Adults at Risk: anyone over the age of 18 and
  - has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and
  - is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
  - as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

#### **4. Promoting a safe environment**

- 4.1 In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and adults at risk, the Parish Council will:
  - provide safe facilities and carry out regular safety assessments
  - ensure that councillors, employees, volunteers, and contractors engaged with the Parish Council and anyone acting on the Parish Council's behalf, while delivering any service to children, young people or adults at risk:
    - are aware of the safeguarding expectations

- who have regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or adults at risk during the course of their duties undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service ("DBS") checks before commencement of such duties.
- 4.2 Councillors, employees, volunteers, and contractors engaged with the Parish Council and anyone acting on the Parish Council's behalf while delivering any service to children, young people or adults at risk must:
- ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional
  - treat each other with respect and consideration
  - refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and bullying.
- 4.3 Reports of suspected abuse will be responded to promptly and appropriately and concerns will be taken seriously and treated with sensitivity.
- 4.4 The Parish Council will display the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help on its notice boards. A copy of the policy will also be posted on the Parish Council website.

## **5. Identifying and reporting a cause for concern**

- 5.1 Any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child, young person or adult at risk should cause concern. A child or adult at risk 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.
- 5.2 Abuse falls into the following main categories and can include child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation (FGM):
- a) Physical abuse
  - b) Emotional/Psychological abuse
  - c) Sexual abuse
  - d) Financial abuse
  - e) Neglect
- 5.3 If any individual has cause for concern they should raise it immediately, in confidence, with the person responsible for the activity (who should then inform the Chair of the Parish Council) or with the Chair of the Parish Council. It is not the responsibility of the person identifying the concern, the senior person leading the activity or the Chair of the Parish Council to investigate.
- 5.4 The Chair of the Parish Council will record the information received and report the concern immediately to Hertfordshire County Council using the contact details below (ref 8.0). In situations where domestic abuse occurs or is

suspected and there are children within the home, a referral must be made to Children Services.

- 5.5 Councillors, employees, volunteers, and contractors must not discuss allegations of abuse, substantiated or not, with anyone other than when reporting to the Chair of the Parish Council or in connection with a potential formal investigation.

## **6. Allegations against councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors engaged by the Parish Council**

- 6.1 All those engaged with Parish Council business should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult.
- 6.2 If an allegation is made against a councillor, employee, volunteer or contractor the person receiving the allegation must immediately inform the Chair of the Parish Council or, if the allegation is made about the Chair, the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 6.3 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership or Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board, contact details below (ref 8.0).

## **7. Monitoring**

- 7.1 The Parish Council confirm this safeguarding policy will be reviewed as and when such legislative/best practice changes take place or at least annually and updated as appropriate.

## **8. Contacts**

- 8.1 For further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you have safeguarding concerns:

For children and young people:

[Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Tel: 0300 123 4043

For adults at risk:

[Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

Tel: 0300 123 4042

Date Adopted: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Minute Reference: [Item 08.03.25 Therfield-March-2025-Minutes](#)

Review Date and Minute:	
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