

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

We all have a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults, preventing impairment to children's health and/or development. Everyone should take action to ensure all children have the best life chances and are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

This policy outlines practice that promotes the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using the Town Council facilities.

The Town Council has a duty to report and forward any concerns to the relevant agencies.

This policy will be reviewed by the Town Council annually.

Definitions

The definition of a child or young person:

- An individual under the age of 18 years

The definition of an adult who is at a vulnerable stage
Anyone over the age of 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Who is in need of community care by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation

Our safeguarding policy and to whom it applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Liskeard Town Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity. Contractors will be requested to comply with our Safeguarding policy, and on some occasions, provide proof of their own policy.

The purpose of this policy is to;

- Protect children, young and vulnerable people who use the Liskeard Town Council facilities.
- Provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

Liskeard Town Council believes that no person should ever experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all adults, children, young and vulnerable people and duty to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that;

- The welfare of children is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, young persons and vulnerable adults regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children, young persons and vulnerable adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with adults, vulnerable people, children, young people, their carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of vulnerable groups

We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe.

We will promote a safe environment by:

- Ensuring regular safety assessments are made and provide safe physical environment for our children, young people and vulnerable adults in all of our facilities, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Safeguarding expectations are made clear and written documentation is readily available for all employees, volunteers and councillors
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Ensuring all relevant checks are made on the recruitment of new employees and volunteers
- All information will be recorded and stored professionally and securely. All sensitive information regarding safeguarding issues will only be accessed by the DSO (Designated Safeguarding Officer), and if deemed necessary the Town Clerk
- Following our safeguarding procedures, to report concerns and information with the relevant agencies who need to be informed
- Using our anti-bullying policy and procedures found on section 6.3 of the staff handbook to maintain an anti-bullying environment, following our policy to help us deal effectively with any issues that may arise
- Valuing all children, young people and vulnerable adults by listening and respecting them
- To ensure Liskeard Town Council does its utmost to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas.

All persons including employees, Councillors and volunteers have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. However they are not responsible to decide whether abuse is taking place - all concerns raised should be passed on to the Town Council Facilities Administration Assistant who is also the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), or direct to the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) on 0300 123 1116 for children or the Adults Triage Team (ATT) for young people or vulnerable adults over the age of 18 years on 01872 326433. Out of hours number for both MARU and ATT is 01208 251300. If reported directly to MARU or ATT, all concerns raised must be passed on and recorded by the DSO.

Radicalisation and extremism

Liskeard Town Council is committed to providing a secure environment with a duty to protect vulnerable people from radicalism and extremism. Liskeard Town Council will report any concerns to the local government, Channel Panel.

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- Identifying individuals at risk
- Assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- Developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Contact the Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789321

OR

Steve Rowland - Lead for Cornwall Council 01736 336587/ 07980 895104

Steve.rowell@cornwall.gov.uk

Social media

Employees should refer to the staff handbook, section 2.8 for guidance on computer use and social media safety.

On occasion, Liskeard Town Council may use social media to promote public events. Liskeard Town Council will make the public aware beforehand.

Whistleblowing

Liskeard Town Council follows a strong whistleblowing policy outlined in section 1.5 of the staff handbook.

We recognise that all staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude, actions or behaviour of colleagues to the Designated Safeguarding Officer or Town Clerk. Allegations will be passed on to LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) and appropriate action will be taken.

Children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff and volunteers fail to do so.

Identifying and recognising abuse

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons.

Child abuse is categorised in to four main types:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglect

Adult abuse is more diverse. It is categorised in to ten types:

- Physical
- Domestic
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Financial or material
- Modern slavery
- Organisational
- Discriminable
- Neglect/acts of omission
- Self-neglect (Access Team will need to be contacted)

You may recognise abuse in a child, young person or vulnerable adult if they show the following symptoms:

- Withdrawal
- Physical
- Change in behaviour
- Clothes
- Hygiene

Please see Recognising Abuse document located within the Safeguarding folder for more information on recognising abuse.

All staff, volunteers and Councillors need to be aware of the many forms of abuse and should be concerned by any action or inaction that physically or emotionally harms a person. Abuse comes in many forms from any area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location and more than one type of abuse may be happening at the same time. All concerns should be reported to and recorded by the DSO. All concerns will be investigated by professionals - no staff, volunteer of councillor should investigate allegations.

Liskeard Town Council assets covered by this policy

Public Hall Complex & Office
Guildhall Complex
Foresters Hall Complex
Thorn Park
Westbourne Gardens
Rapsons Skate Park
Public Toilets
Allotments

Contact details

All Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Erin Beswetherick
01579 345407 or 07528108964
reception@liskeard.gov.uk

For emergencies:

Devon and Cornwall Police

For Emergences - 999
Non Emergencies - 101

If, for any reason it is not possible/appropriate to contact your Designated Safeguarding Officer or the incident is outside of the workplace:

How to make a Safeguarding vulnerable adults referral

To raise a concern, you must contact the **Cornwall Council Adult Safeguarding Team**

Access Team - 0300 1234 131 Option 2

In case of emergency when offices are closed - 01208 251300

How to make a Safeguarding children and young adults referral

To raise a concern, you must contact the **Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU)**

MARU - 0300 123 116

In case of emergency when offices are closed - 01208 251300

Useful information:

Adults

Cornwall Council web pages:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/safeguarding-adults/>

Say no to neglect and abuse leaflet: <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/14709574/say-no-to-abuse-leaflet.pdf>

Children

Cornwall Council web pages:

<http://www.safechildren-cios.co.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-safeguarding-children-partnership/>

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/child-protection-and-safeguarding/>

Further advice and guidance:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on **date of completion**

Signed for and on behalf of Liskeard Town Council:

Position:

Next review date: _____