

# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Reviewed and agreed September 2024

## 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 adults. This Policy applies to Heckfield Parish Council members, employees, volunteers, contractors and hirers.

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

When on premises owned or 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 and under direct supervision by 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 - 5pm) Children's Services: 0300 555 1384
- 'At all other times out-of-hours Service: 0300 555 1373
- 'For all emergency situations call 999.'

## 4. Law Enforcement

For any crime or suspected crime relating to children and young people or vulnerable adults call 999 for a live incident requiring immediate response; if nothing to be achieved by emergency response, report to Hampshire Constabulary online or call 101.

Clerk: Susan Turner

2, Ash Cottages, Newnham Road, Newnham, Hook, Hants RG27 9AF  
Tel 07515 777060 email [clerk@uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk)