

**Brewood and Coven Parish Council  
with Bishop's Wood and Coven Heath.**

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**Introduction**

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Parish Council facilities. The policy will be reviewed by the Parish Council on a regular basis.

**Definitions**

Children and young people:

Anyone under the age of 18 years

Vulnerable Adult:

Anyone over 18 who is unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation.

**To whom this policy applies**

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

**Promoting a safe environment**

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

- ❖ Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments
- ❖ Ensure that councillors, employees and volunteers are aware of the safeguarding expectations
- ❖ Make available on public noticeboards and to employees and councillors, the contact details of the following:
  - **Staffordshire First Response Team (Children)** 0800 1313126
  - **Staffordshire Adults Team (contact centre)** 0845 6042719
  - **Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Referral Team (Children)** 01782 235100
  - **Stoke-on-Trent Adults Referrals (contact centre)** 0800 5610015
  - **Staffordshire Police MASH Team (Professionals only)** 01785 235350
  - **Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Partnership Trust** 01785 895630

Councillors, employees and volunteers 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 Safeguarding Children Board or the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as soon as possible.

**Allegations against councillors, staff and volunteers**

All councillors, staff and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a susceptible situation with a child or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults. All Councillors, staff and volunteers should be aware of the procedure for managing allegations against staff/volunteers, a copy of which can be found on the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) website. No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the board (contact details above).

**Whistleblowing**

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

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.

### **What should be a cause for concern?**

Councillors, 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 a 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.

Abuse falls into four main categories:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

All councillors, staff and volunteers need to have an awareness that there are many other forms of abuse ranging from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children or vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training through the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) but further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the SSCB website ([www.staffsscb.org.uk](http://www.staffsscb.org.uk)).

All agencies, whether statutory, voluntary or other are obliged to follow the procedures laid out on the SSCB website.

### **Useful Safeguarding Contact Details:**

Childline [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) 0800 1111

NSPCC [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Mental Health [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

Professionals wanting to make a new safeguarding concern (MASH enquiry) should contact the MASH

Team by email: [frist@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:frist@staffordshire.gov.uk)

- **Staffordshire First Response Team (Children)** 0800 1313126
- **Staffordshire Adults Team (contact centre)** 0845 6042719
- **Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Referral Team (Children)** 01782 235100
- **Stoke-on-Trent Adults Referrals (contact centre)** 0800 5610015
- **Staffordshire Police MASH Team (Professionals only)** 01785 235350
- **Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Partnership Trust** 01785 895630

Professionals with any safeguarding concerns should contact the children's assessment team at:

**Staffordshire County Council**

[www.staffsscb.org.uk](http://www.staffsscb.org.uk)

01785 277151.