

Leconfield Parish Council - Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

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

1.2 This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Leconfield Parish Council facilities.

1.3 This policy will be reviewed regularly.

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 need community care services.

3. To whom this policy applies

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

4. Promoting a safe environment

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

- provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
- ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
- make available on public noticeboards and to employees and councillors relevant contact details (see below). There is no designated Safeguarding Officer for the Parish Council, therefore individuals have responsibility for reporting concerns using the contact details below.

4.2 Employees, councillors and volunteers all 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 authorities as detailed below as soon as possible.

Reporting concerns

Children:

The East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership (ERSCP) oversees and coordinates all of the work undertaken within the East Riding to keep children safe. It is a partnership between the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Humberside Police and the East Riding of Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group working alongside other relevant agencies.

If a child is suffering abuse and requires urgent attention because of immediate danger, call the Police on 999.

If you need to make a safeguarding contact about a child or young person who is at risk of harm, abuse or neglect or who has significant vulnerabilities they should be referred to Children's Safeguarding Hub.

During office hours (Monday to Thursday 08.30am and 5pm, Friday 8.30 am-4.30pm), you can contact SAPH by telephone on:

Call 01482 395500

Outside of office hours, please contact the emergency duty team:

Call 01482 393939

Adults:

The East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board is responsible for protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse.

How to report adult abuse or neglect concerns.

If an adult is suffering abuse and requires urgent attention because of immediate danger, call the Police on 999.

The safeguarding adults team can be contacted by phone 9am – 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am – 4.30pm Friday.

Tel: (01482) 396940

You can report on line 24/7 by going to the East Riding Safeguarding Adults website.

5. Allegations against staff and volunteers

5.1 All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position 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.

5.2 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the East Riding Children's and Adults teams on the numbers provided above.

If you need medical advice and support fast, but it's not life threatening, call your GP or NHS 111.

You should always call 999 in an emergency – for example when someone's life is at risk or someone is seriously injured or critically ill.

6. Whistleblowing

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

6.2 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 East Riding Safeguarding Teams.

7. What should be a cause for concern

7.1 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.

7.2 Abuse

Abuse falls into four main categories: physical, emotional, sexual and financial.

7.3 All 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).

7.4 Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children or vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training.

7.5 Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the East Riding safeguarding websites.