



BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy

BLANK

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 Brackley Town 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 Brackley Town Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.
- 3.2 It also applies to any individual hiring, leasing or using the Town Council facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

4. Promoting a safe environment

- 4.1 In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Brackley Town Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this, Brackley Town Council will:
 - provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
 - ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
 - members of staff who have regular, unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties will undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks before commencement of such duties;
 - make available on public noticeboards in our venues and to employees and councillors relevant contact details.
- 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.

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 Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board or Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board (contact details below).
- 5.3 If you feel that a child is in immediate danger please contact the emergency services directly by calling 999.

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children and Adults Board
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0300 126 7000

[Reporting a concern about a child](#)

[Reporting a concern about an adult](#)

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

Area-wide
Northamptonshire Police – 101
NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

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 councillors, 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 Teams at West Northamptonshire Council.

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 falls into four main categories:
- physical abuse
 - emotional abuse
 - sexual abuse
 - financial abuse/manipulation
 - neglect
- 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 [West Northamptonshire Council's](#) website.