

BRIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL - SAFEGUARDING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Bridford Parish Council understands that safeguarding is everyone's concern and is therefore committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Although Bridford Parish Council does not directly supervise children, young people or vulnerable adults (employees, parish councillors and volunteers never work alone with children), it is nonetheless committed to ensuring that all children, young people and vulnerable adults are kept safe during council led activities and events. Risk assessments are carried out for all events run by Bridford Parish Council

The expectation from Bridford Parish Council is that all children, young people and vulnerable adults will be appropriately supervised by parents/carers

BRIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING LEAD/DEPUTY

- The Safeguarding Lead role will be carried out by the current Clerk and the current Parish Council Chair as Deputy
- Both Safeguarding Leads will undertake suitable Safeguarding training

RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES OR CONCERNS

- All disclosures will be taken seriously and treated on a 'need to know' basis
- If an employee, parish councillor or volunteer has any concerns about the welfare or well-being of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, they will in the first instance inform the Council's Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead immediately
- They will not share that information with anyone else unless asked to do so by an external safeguarding agency.
- If a child, young person or vulnerable adult discloses harm, neglect or abuse to an employee, parish councillor or volunteer they will:
 - Stay calm and listen carefully
 - Not investigate or interrogate
 - Not promise to keep it secret
 - Record the disclosure in writing, sign and date it
 - Inform the Council's safeguarding lead or deputy safeguarding lead immediately and remember that the information must not be shared with anyone else unless further details are requested by an external safeguarding agency.
- The Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead will then contact the correct external safeguarding agencies or the Police, as appropriate, to report and/or seek further advice

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST EMPLOYEES, COUNCILLORS OR VOLUNTEERS

If an allegation is made against an employee, parish councillor or volunteer, the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead will be informed immediately. They will then contact the correct external safeguarding agencies to report and/or seek further advice before any further investigations are conducted or actions are taken. Should there be an allegation against the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead, then the allegation should only be mentioned to the Safeguarding Lead who is not being implicated.

CONTACTS

For Children and Young People - advice:

Devon MASH: 0345 1551 071 <https://www.multiagencysafeguardinghub.com/>

For Vulnerable Adults - advice:

Devon Safeguarding Adult Services: 0345 1551 007 or 03451 6000 388 (emergency out of hours) or email: adultsc.safeguardingadultservices-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

For Professionals - advice:

Devon Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 01392 384964

or email: ladosecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

For support and advice:

Devon Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0345 1551 074

CONCLUSION

The steps outlined in this policy will be followed at all times and this policy reviewed on a regular basis.

Adopted April 2026