



Redgrave Parish Council

CHILD & VULNERABLE ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Introduction

All members and staff of Redgrave Parish Council, have a duty to safeguard vulnerable members of the parish and beyond who use Parish facilities and services. This policy is in place to reflect and ensure Redgrave Parish Council's commitment that children and vulnerable adults with care and support needs are kept safe from harm while they are engaged in any Council activity or service, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

The following definitions are used for the purposes of this document:

- Children: Anyone under the age of 18 years
- 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

This policy is applicable to anyone who is:

- Working for or on behalf of the Parish Council when engaging with children or vulnerable adults, whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.
- Using the Parish Council facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children or vulnerable adults.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Ensure that all facilities and activities offered by the Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and adults with care and support needs (see also the Redgrave Parish Council Health & Safety Policy).
- Develop procedures in recording and responding to safeguarding complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.
- Ensure that councillors, employees and leaders of activities in / on parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations

3. Principles

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children and vulnerable adults will not be permitted or tolerated.

As the Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children and adults with care and support needs, it expects all children and adults with care and support needs using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

No member of the Council, its employees or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults.

Each employee and Council Member will adopt and take responsibility for the implementation of this Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy.

4. Creating a Safe Environment

Redgrave Parish Council will take measure to create a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults. It will do this by:

- Making sure that councillors, employees, contractors and leaders of activities in or on parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding requirements.
- Undertaking regular safety assessments of its facilities.
- Ensuring that the policy for users of parish facilities includes a requirement that they are safe to work with children and vulnerable adults.

5. Allegations against staff and volunteers

All staff and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult.

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable person will be taken seriously.

If an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer:

- The person receiving the allegation should immediately inform the Clerk or the Chairman of the Parish Council.
- The clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman, will then refer the incident to the read Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership as the body overseeing the policy. in accordance with the Suffolk SCB (Safeguarding Children's Board) procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers on the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership website (<https://suffolksp.org.uk/>).
- No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
 - Contact details: LADOCentral@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk 0300 123 2044