



MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council is a legal body governed by statute. It has a responsibility to ensure that all steps are taken to provide protection for children and young people and also for those beyond this age that may be construed as vulnerable because of mental or physical incapacity.

This Policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Parish Council facilities.

Definitions:

Children and young people:

Anyone under the age of 18 years

Vulnerable adult:

Anyone over the age of 18 years and is:

- i. Unable to care for themselves;
- ii. Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation or;
- iii. May be in need of community care services.

To whom this Policy applies

This Policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Medstead Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, for example contracted to undertake a specific piece of work.

In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT:

Medstead Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council.

Medstead Parish Council will endeavour to achieve this by:

- Ensuring that employees, councillors and leaders of activities in Parish facilities are aware of the safeguarding expectations;
- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
- Ensuring that whilst Councillors are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties they are mindful of the risk they face;
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.

Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by Council, or the Clerk in consultation with a Councillor.

2.1 Policy Objective:

- 2.1.1 To ensure that where possible all facilities offered by Medstead Parish Council, principally through recreation and sport, are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable people.
- 2.1.2 To ensure that users of sports facilities through Clubs are protected by ensuring those Clubs have and provide to us, their Safeguarding Policy.
- 2.1.3 To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a caring organisation.
- 2.1.4 To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse.
- 2.1.5 Facilities such as playgrounds, aerial runway, etc. will be inspected on a regular basis by the Clerk (currently monthly) and annually by an accredited RPII inspector. Any recommendations will be reported to Council and acted upon as directed.
- 2.1.6 If there is a child abuse incident it should be reported to the Clerk to the Parish Council who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled and also referred to Council for further and future risk assessment.

2.2 This Policy will be reviewed annually.

2.3 Hiring of facilities to groups covered in this Policy.

Medstead Parish Council will require the hirer to:

- 2.3.1 Have public liability insurance;
- 2.3.2 Have a suitable safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults' policy and/or agree to work to the Parish council's Policy;
- 2.3.3 Ensure leaders make their members aware of the Parish Council Policy and ensure it is followed whilst using Parish facilities;
- 2.3.4 Ensure leaders have DBS checks as appropriate and;
- 2.3.5 Do risk assessments for individual activities.

3.0 DECLARATION:

Medstead Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

All councillors, employees or volunteers of the Council should read the Council's Safeguarding Policy. Having read the Policy they should be proactive in providing a safer environment for children and vulnerable people who use Council facilities.

We do not currently closely monitor play areas etc and this fact should be considered when determining proposals for such facilities.

Any breaches in this Policy will be determined by disciplinary procedures as felt appropriate.