

Thornley Parish Council

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Approved 22nd May 2018

Our safeguarding policy

This policy applies to all Council employees, Councillors, volunteers and sessional workers or anyone working on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children and young people who receive Thornley Parish Council's Services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- to provide staff and volunteers with overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection;

Thornley Parish Council believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Right of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Education needs and disability (SEND) code of practice
- Information sharing: HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguarding children: a guide to inter-agency working: HM Government 2015

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures on:

- Recruitment and training
- Health and Safety
- Lone working policy and procedure

We recognise that

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues

- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Designation Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people
- adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made where appropriate
- recording and storing information professionally and securely
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with law and regulatory guidance

Contact details

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)
Brenda Hodgson Community & Facilities Officer. TPC
Tel: 01429824126
Infotvc@thornley-pc.gov.uk

NSPCC Helpline
0808 800 5000
CEOP
www.ceop.police.uk
Childline
0800 1111

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was approved on 22nd May 2018, and will be reviewed in May 2019.

Signed:

J Unsworth

Chairperson

Thornley Parish Council