



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council has a duty under the Children Act 2004 to play a full role in the protection of children and play its part in the promotion of their welfare.
- 1.2 This policy applies to all those under the age of eighteen years (as defined in the Children Act 2004).

2. General Policy Statement

- 2.1 'As a provider of public services it is Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council's responsibility to ensure that it, as an organisation, and the individuals within the organisation, takes all reasonable steps to protect young people using Council services from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and respecting their rights, wishes and feelings.'

3 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks.

- 3.1 No employee will be allowed to be in contact with Children or young people until such time as suitable DBS clearance has been received.

4. Training

- 4.1 Staff identified as having a role with children should be briefed on the process of how to raise a safeguarding concern. This must be as soon as possible, and will include the name of the person that they should raise their concern with.

5. Sports and Leisure

- 5.1 This is a key service in terms of interacting with children and young people.
- 5.2 The general guidance from Sport Coach UK will be used in conjunction with that from Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB).

Courses

- 5.3 All Leisure Staff will have been trained by an organisation such as Sports Coach UK – that can give direct advice and guidance on protection issues as they relate to the leisure arena.
- 5.4 All staff will be advised of a point of contact with who those attending can raise any child protection issues.
- 5.5 The ratio of children and young people on each course should be carefully controlled. Lone working should be avoided.

6. Allegations against Staff

- 6.1 All staff should ensure that they do not put themselves into a situation where an accusation can be made. This includes contact with children and young people socially, through mobile phone contact and through electronic social media.
- 6.2 Particular care should be taken if transportation is necessary. This should be anticipated, and no member of staff should be in a vehicle on their own with children and young people. If this is deemed necessary, then the permission of the parent or carer should be sought. This should be in writing in advance or by telephone on the day.
- 6.3 Should a concern become apparent, then they must inform the Clerk who will ensure that the appropriate procedure is followed.
- 6.4 If an allegation is made against a member of Staff, the procedure in Section 6 of the Blue Book should be referenced, and Appendix 5 ('Procedures for managing allegations against people who work with children') of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (or its successor document). The Local Government Association Blue Book is available via the Clerk
- 6.5 All allegations should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer ('LADO') - a post appointed by the WSCB

7. Photography and Filming

- 7.1 The use of photography and filming of children and young people is expressly prohibited in connection with Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council's premises and activities unless written permission has been granted in advance by a parent or carer.

This policy was reviewed and adopted on 24th June 2024