



LICKEY AND BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

(Children, Young people and Vulnerable adults)

Section 1

Policy Statement

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Parish council facilities. Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council (LBPC) will review it annually.

Definitions

Children and young people

Anyone under the age of 18 years.

Vulnerable adults

Anyone over 18 years of age and is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- Or may need community care services

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of LBPC whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, for example contracted to do a piece of work.

It also applies to any individual hiring, leasing or using the LBPC facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Section 2

Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, LBPC will:

- provide safe facilities and do regular assessments
- ensure that employees, councillors and leaders of activities in the parish or in/on parish facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Members of staff and volunteers who have regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties **MUST** undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks **BEFORE** commencement of such duties.

- Display on LBPC notice boards in the village relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help. A copy will also be made available on LBPC website.

Expectations of behaviour

All users of LBPC facilities, organisers of parish events and volunteers should:

- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional
- Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other young groups using LBPC facilities
- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour to the Chair of LBPC, Executive Officer or parents/carers as appropriate

Hiring of facilities to groups for use with children, young people or vulnerable adults

LBPC will require the hirer to:

- Have public liability insurance
- Have a suitable safeguarding policy and/or agree to work to the LBPC's policy and relevant guidance
- Ensure leaders make their members aware of the LBPC policy and ensure that it is followed whilst using the parish facilities
- Ensure leaders have valid enhanced DBS checks as appropriate and know where the first aid boxes are and how to summon help from the Emergency services
- Do risk assessment for individual activities

Section 3

Safe working practice

All users of Parish facilities must follow the policy and procedures at all the time. For example, they should:

- Never leave children, young people and vulnerable adults unattended with adults who have not been subjected to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- Plan activities to involve more than one person being present or at least in sight or hearing of others. Alternatively, record, or inform others of their whereabouts and intended action
- Where possible, have male and female leaders working with a mixed group
- Ensure registers are complete and attendees are marked in and signed out (Under 8s must be collected by a parent/carer)
- Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without written permission from their parents/carers
- Ensure they have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire procedures
- When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible

Section 4

Allegations against staff and volunteers

LBPC will follow the procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers on the Worcestershire Safeguarding website (<https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk>) No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with Worcestershire Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) on **01905846221**.

Whistleblowing

All Parish councillors, Executive officer and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitudes or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO or Safeguarding Team as to how to handle such allegations. **LBPC must not make a judgement on whether the allegations have merit for further investigation, this decision must be for the LADO team.**

What should be a cause for concern

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child. Abuse falls into four main categories and can include child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation (FGM). The categories are as follows:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Financial abuse/manipulation

LBPC is committed to ensuring the safety of all users of our services and facilities and take our responsibilities seriously. We regularly work with other agencies and Worcestershire County Council to ensure compliance with changing laws and guidelines in relation to safeguarding.

Contact details

Safeguarding Children	01905 82266 (Monday to Friday) and 01905 768020 (out of hours)
Safeguarding adults	01905 768053

Policy adopted by Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council on 26th September 2022
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