



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction

Beaminster Town Council recognises that the protection and safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility and is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

The Council's Safeguarding Lead Officer is the Town Clerk who can be contacted

Email - townclerk@beaminster-tc.gov.uk

Telephone - (01308) 863634 or

via the Council Office, 8 Fleet Street, Beaminster DT8 3EF

The Council's Deputy Safeguarding Officer is the Administration & Project manager who can be contacted

Email – administration@beaminster-tc.gov.uk

Telephone – (01308) 863624 or

via the Council Office, 8 Fleet Street, Beaminster DT8 3EF

Policy Statement

This Policy establishes the roles and responsibilities of members, staff, volunteers and contractors in relation to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, with whom they come into contact while fulfilling their duties and makes clear the expectations and requirements around duties of care to children.

Beaminster Town Council has a duty to co-operate with other agencies and authorities to promote the well-being of children and young people.

Promoting a safer environment

All members, staff, volunteers, contracted service providers and agents have a responsibility to take action when they suspect or recognise that a child or vulnerable young adult may be a victim of significant harm or abuse. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the authorities as detailed below as soon as possible.

- **Dorset Council**
email – lado@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Telephone – (01305) 221122
- **Dorset Council via Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board**
Telephone – (01305) 221016 (Monday to Friday 8:30am–5pm)
outside of normal opening hours: (01305) 221000
- **Integrated Care Board (ICB)**
email – safeguarding.notifications@nhsdorset.nhs.uk
telephone – (01202) 228866

- **Dorset Police**
Dorset Safeguarding & Public Protection Unit via 999

It is the responsibility of every member of the Town Council to make sure that the importance of this Policy and related documents is communicated to staff and others whom they engage to undertake duties on their behalf, which may involve contact with children and young people, understand and comply with them, as appropriate.

Children, young people and vulnerable adults are:

- Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18 years
- Vulnerable adult: anyone who is 18 or over and who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness: and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation

Definitions of abuse

Physical Abuse covers any form of physical, emotional, mental and sexual abuse including bullying or lack of care that leads to injury or harm.

Neglect is where people fail to meet a child's or vulnerable person's basic physical/psychological needs that is likely to result in the serious impairment of their health or development

Sexual abuse is where children or vulnerable adults knowingly or unknowingly take part in an activity that meets the sexual needs of the other person or persons involved. This includes inappropriate photography or videoing

Emotional/mental abuse is where there is persistent emotional ill treatment that causes severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's or vulnerable person's emotional state

Allegations against staff and volunteers

All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the authorities as detailed on page 1.

All staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate action will be sought from the appropriate authority.

Confidentiality

Members, employees, volunteers, contractors or agents must not discuss allegations of abuse, substantiated or not, with anyone other than in connection with the formal investigation.

Prevention

An important element of good practice begins with the recruitment, selection, transfer and posting of staff to positions affording substantial access to children.

Prospective employees will be interviewed and previous relevant experience will be noted. Two appropriate references will be taken up for all employees. All employees will undergo a probationary period.

The Town Council's paid and voluntary positions will be assessed using Government guidance to determine if Disclosure and Barring Service checks are appropriate to the role. Where this is the case these checks will be repeated every three years.

Every attempt should be made to ensure inappropriate photographs or footage of children does not occur and members, staff, volunteers and contractors should remain vigilant at all times. Anyone using cameras or film recorders for or on behalf of the Town Council must obtain consent from parents of children being photographed or filmed before the activity takes place.

Beaminster Town Council will take reasonable care that contractors doing work on behalf of the Council are monitored appropriately.

Council facilities

Independent sports clubs and private individuals who regularly use the facilities operated by Beaminster Town Council should have appropriate safeguarding policies in place commensurate with the level of contact they have.

Declaration

Beaminster Town Council is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults and will make this Safeguarding Policy available to all members, staff and volunteers who are expected to take the time to thoroughly read document.

ADOPTED by Beaminster Town Council at a meeting held on 24th March 2026