

Baginton Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

1. Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Baginton Parish Council services. The policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Baginton Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.
2. Definitions
Children and young people: - anyone under the age of 18 years.
Vulnerable adult: - anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation; or may need community care services.

Promoting a safe environment

3. To promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Baginton Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its activity areas. To achieve this, Baginton Parish Council will: -
 - provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
 - ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
 - make available on public noticeboards and to employees and councillors relevant contact details for the designated Safeguarding Officers i.e. the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk.
4. Employees, councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults, but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. Any concerns, even if they are not related directly to Parish Council activities, should be passed as a matter of urgency to the designated Safeguarding Officers or reported directly to the relevant safeguarding agency e.g. Warwickshire Safeguarding (www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk) or Warwickshire Police on 999 or 101.

Allegations against staff and volunteers

5. Everyone should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for work to be conducted in view of other adults.
6. No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation against staff and volunteers before consultation with the Warwickshire Safeguarding team.

What should be a cause for concern

7. Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or a vulnerable adult. A child or vulnerable adult may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and their peers, and abuse can occur in any family OR in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location.
8. Abuse falls into the main categories of physical abuse; emotional abuse; sexual abuse; financial abuse; neglect.
9. Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are available on the Warwickshire Safeguarding website www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk.