



# **WEST BEDLINGTON**

## **TOWN COUNCIL**

### **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY.**

<b>Approved Minute Ref</b>	<b>21/89</b>
<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> August 2021</b>
<b>Version</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025</b>
<b>Min ref</b>	<b>25/216</b>
<b>Next Review</b>	<b>Sept 2026</b>

## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY.**

### **WHO IS A VULNERABLE PERSON?**

A vulnerable person could include

- Children under 18 years of age
- Young people
- Adults with learning difficulties or physical disability
- Frail elderly people
- Carers

West Bedlington Town Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Town Council.

- The welfare of the child / vulnerable adult is paramount,
- All children and young people without exception, have the right to protection from abuse and for their rights, feelings and views to be respected.
- All suspicion and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriate.

In line with these principles the Town Council will aim to:

- Create a healthy and safe environment for all activities, where children and young people feel safe and secure.
- Promote the general welfare, health and full development of children and young people during activities.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and young people and protect them from abuse.
- Respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children and young people to ensure they are listened to.
- Ensure that allegations made by a child are not allowed to go unchallenged, and that any allegations and suspicions are investigated, recorded and acted upon promptly.
- Ensure that councillors, staff and volunteers are well informed, supported and enabled to provide the best possible practice
- Encourage all new employees / Councillors who will work with, or come into contact with, children and young people in the course of their work activities to complete a disclosure form from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to see that there are no irregularities in their background that may give concern.
- Ensure that all new employees / Councillors are provided with the Safeguarding Policy and asked to sign to confirm they understand it and will abide by it.

## **GOOD PRACTICE WHEN WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

When working with children **you should**:

- Always be publicly open. Avoid any situations where you and an individual child are completely unobserved.

When working with children **you should never**

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate contact.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Do things of a personal nature that the child can do for itself.

## **REPORTING INCIDENTS**

The nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult representative is the Town Clerk. He will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to

For Adults –

Office Hours

Northumberland Adult Safeguarding, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Foundry House, Bedlington, Northumberland.

Telephone: 01670 536 400 Fax: 01670 536 830 Email: [Socialcare@northumbria.nhs.uk](mailto:Socialcare@northumbria.nhs.uk)

Out of Hours Telephone: 0845 600 5252 Fax: 01670 593 606

Email: [edtferralsandalerts@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:edtferralsandalerts@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk)

For Children –

Office Hours

Telephone: 01670 623978

Out of Hours

Telephone: 0845 600 5252

