

# **Stratton Parish Council's Safeguarding Policy**

## **PURPOSE OF THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

To ensure that Stratton Parish Council adheres to its legal obligation and social responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. This is in accordance with legislation such as the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Equality Act 2010.

The term attender refers to any person attending meetings or activities held by Stratton Parish Council.

The term vulnerable adult refers to any person, over the age of 18, in need of community care or support services because of old age, mental health issues, physical disability, hearing, seeing and/or communication difficulties, learning disabilities or the inability to protect themselves from significant harm or being taken advantage of.

Stratton Parish Council is committed to improving and promoting best practice throughout the organisation and ensuring that the wellbeing of attenders is safeguarded and that they are protected from harm. This in turn will promote opportunities for them to thrive and benefit from their experience and fostering a culture where attenders are valued and their right to be safe is respected.

Under this policy abuse and neglect are defined as forms of maltreatment to any attender. This may be by omission or commission i.e. inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. We recognise an attender can be abused in a family, institution or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Abuse may be by an adult(s) or another child(ren). The main categories of abuse are neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and financial abuse.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY**

Stratton Parish Council has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding and will ensure that the arrangements for protecting attenders are effective, robust and reviewed on a regular basis.

The designated Safeguarding Officer is Cheryl Hobbs of Stratton Parish Council, who can be contacted on [strattondorset.org](http://strattondorset.org)

Recognition of actual or suspected abuse is the responsibility of ALL members of Stratton Parish Council whether paid or volunteers. In the event of relevant contacts not being available then Dorset Safeguarding Department (01305 224314) will need to be contacted. All committee members will be made aware of this policy to support their understanding and awareness of safeguarding issues.

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## PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED ABUSE AND CONCERNS

### Cause for concerns may include:

- Signs of physical abuse e.g. bruising
- Suspicions of abuse due to changes in behaviour
- Disclosure by service user where a member of staff believes the learner to be at risk of harm
- Any obvious signs of neglect

In the event that Stratton Parish Council are concerned they must:

- record brief, dated notes of information received and observations made and
- contact the designated Safeguarding Officer

## OUTCOMES

The Safeguarding Officer will refer information to or seek advice from other relevant organisations as appropriate e.g. Police, GP, Dorset Local Safeguarding Board. There is an expectation that concerns should be shared with family /carers unless by doing so the attender might be placed at greater risk of harm.

In the event of the concerns not being appropriate for referral at that stage then the attender will be monitored through an appropriate member of staff in liaison with the Safeguarding Officer.

The Parish Council will receive support as required.

## ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST THE PARISH COUNCIL, OR VOLUNTEERS

If an allegation is made against a council member or volunteer, it should be reported immediately to Cheryl Hobbs and appropriate action should be taken. The incident should be noted on records and followed up accordingly.

Signed:

Position held:

Date: