

# Winteringham Parish Council

## Safeguarding Adults Policy

Name of Organisation	<b>Winteringham Parish Council</b>
Location	<b>Frost Close, Winteringham</b>
Purpose of organisation	<b>To serve the community at the first level of local government</b>

## Statement

Winteringham Parish Council considers it the duty of the staff and volunteers to protect adults at risk who they come into contact with from abuse and / or neglect.

## Introduction

Winteringham Parish Council is involved in providing services for a wide range of people. Some of these people are likely to be adults at risk.

This policy is based on The Care Act 2014, the national Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

The Council has obligations to strive to protect adults who it believes to be abused or at risk of abuse and / or neglect.

The policy and procedures have been developed to assist staff and volunteers in acting on reported or suspected abuse.

Depending upon the nature of particular services or requirements of particular commissioners or partner agencies, the policy and procedure may be supplemented by local procedures.

## Definitions **The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:**

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
  - Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
  - As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect
- Abuse and neglect You should not limit views on what constitutes abuse or neglect as they can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case should always be considered.

## Categories of abuse

**Physical abuse** – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint, inappropriate physical sanctions Domestic abuse including – psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, so called ‘honour’ based violence

**Sexual abuse** – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure, sexual assault, sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

**Psychological abuse** – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation, unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support networks.

**Financial or material abuse** – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult’s financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits,

**Modern Slavery** – slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude, traffickers and slave masters using whatever means they have at their disposal or coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

**Discriminatory abuse** – including, harassment, slurs or similar treatment: because of race; gender and gender identity; age; disability; sexual orientation; religion.

**Organisational abuse** – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one’s own home. This may range from one off incidents to ongoing

**ill-treatment** - It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

**Neglect and acts of omission** – including, ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

## **The Six Safeguarding Principles**

The following six principles underpin all adult safeguarding work

**Empowerment** – People are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent

**Prevention** - it is better to take action before harm occurs

**Proportionality** – The least intrusive response to the risk presented

Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need

Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse

Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

## **Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)**

The adult at risk and / or their representative should be as involved as possible and to the extent to which they'd like. MSP should be person-led and outcome-focused. It engages the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation, in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

MSP is about seeing people as experts in their own lives and working alongside them.

## **Responsibilities of staff and volunteers**

Paid staff and volunteers have a responsibility to be aware and alert to signs of abuse or neglect, or suspected abuse or neglect. However, they are not responsible for diagnosing, investigating or providing a therapeutic response to abuse. In addition, not all concerns relate to abuse, there may well be other explanations. It is important to keep an open mind and consider what is known and where possible speak to the adult concerned.

## **Disclosure of abuse**

If an adult at risk discloses to you that they are being abused or any service user discloses that they are involved in abuse of an adult at risk, action should continue as in Section 10. All action must proceed urgently and without delay.

## **Suspicion of abuse**

There may be circumstances when a volunteer or member of staff suspects that an adult at risk is being abused or neglected.

It is vital that anyone who suspects an adult at risk is being neglected or abused discusses the situation immediately with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Winteringham Parish Council Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Holly Scott  
Clerk to the Parish Council  
21 Flixborough Road  
Burton Upon Stather

Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 9HB  
01724 721372  
07483127960

## **Action on disclosure of abuse / Making a referral**

There should always be the opportunity to discuss concerns with and seek advice from colleagues, managers and other agencies, but;

- Never delay emergency action to protect an adult at risk
- Where possible always involve the adult at risk and / or their representative
- Always record any concerns and / or action taken. Records will be stored securely in accordance with the Parish Councils Information Security Procedure and Data Destruction Policy.
- The North Lincolnshire Council Adult Protection Team should be notified and a safeguarding concern submitted within 24 hours of the occurrence taking place

## **Preventing Abuse by Staff and Volunteers**

It is important that any staff or volunteers who are likely to be working alone with vulnerable people are thoroughly vetted before being employed. However, given the scope of Winteringham Parish Council's responsibilities, it is unlikely that any Parish Council staff member or volunteer will be working directly with vulnerable people. However should the Parish Council, in future, choose to employ somebody within this role then as well as references being checked there will be a requirement for offences to be declared and a Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) check must be undertaken.

It may be very hard for a worker to report a concern about a colleague to a line manager or the Council but, as with all other difficulties people will come across, the safety and protection of an adult at risk must be the priority in any decision that is made

Adopted July 2017

Reviewed May 2020