

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



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Faversham Town Council Safeguarding Policy

SECTION 1

1.1 Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Town Council facilities. The policy will be reviewed annually.

1.2 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 be in need of community care services

1.3 To whom this policy applies

- This policy applies to anyone working for, or on behalf of, the Town Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, for example contracted to do a piece of work.
- It also applies to any individual using the Town Council facilities for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

SECTION 2

2.1 Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, the Town Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and do regular safety assessments.
- Ensure that employees, councillors and leaders of activities in / on Town council facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Ensure that the policy for users of Town council facilities includes a requirement that they are safe to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. (eg, any adults who have regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties should undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service checks.)

- Ensure that attendees at functions, eg transport weekend, are aware that parents are responsible for their children's safety and the location of a dedicated safe place for lost children is clear.
- Display on notice boards the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help. See Appendix poster.

2.2 Use of facilities by groups for use with children, young people or vulnerable adults (eg clubs / organisations regularly using Town Hall,

Guildhall) Faversham Town Council will require the leaders to:

- Have public liability insurance.
- Have a suitable safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adult policy

and/or agree to work to the Town Council's policy and relevant guidance.

- Ensure leaders make their members aware of the Town Council Policy and ensure that it is followed whilst using Town facilities.
- Ensure leaders have valid enhanced DBS checks as appropriate and know where the first aid box is.
- Do risk assessments for individual activities.

SECTION 3

3.1 Safe working practice

All users of Town Council Facilities must follow the safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults' policy and procedures at all times. For example they should:

- Never leave children, young people or vulnerable adults unattended with adults who have not been subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- Plan activities to involve more than one person being present or at least in sight or hearing of others. Alternatively, record, or inform others of their whereabouts and intended action.
- Where possible, have male and female leaders working with a mixed group.
- Ensure registers are complete and attendees are marked in and signed out (under 8's must be collected by a parent/carer).
- Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without permission from parents/ carers.
- Ensure they have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire procedures. Ensure that where a child, young person or vulnerable adult needs assistance with toilet trips and when first aid is required, that this is carried out in pairs or in the latter case, that it is carried out where they can be seen.
- When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

3.2 Expectations of behaviour

All users of Town Council Facilities should:

- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction with users should be appropriate and professional.
- Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using the facilities.
- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism and bullying and in addition report any instances of such behaviour to group leaders, Town councillors, the Town clerk or parents and carers, as appropriate.

SECTION 4

4.1 DBS Checks

This policy complies with the exception to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and with the Disclosure and Barring Service Code of Practice and replaces all previous policies, decisions and/or precedents relating to criminal records checks for Faversham elected members, officers and volunteers.

Faversham Town Council is committed to protecting the wellbeing of the public and those individuals in its care who are considered to be especially vulnerable or at risk - children, and vulnerable adults. We will undertake:

- to not to knowingly employ in regulated activity, or use as a volunteer, a barred person
- to refer individuals who have been dismissed, or we cease to use, to the Disclosure & Barring Service if we believe they have harmed or pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults (this will be carried out in accordance with the referral process outlined by the DBS).
- The principles of this policy apply to all employees, elected members, volunteers, applicants, and others engaged in council service provision with children or vulnerable adults. The council has a statutory duty of care to vulnerable members of society; this duty will be carried out with due regard to all other relevant legislation, and the council undertakes to treat all individuals fairly.
- That all staff, volunteers and elected members on Faversham Town Council agree to undertake a DBS check, either a basic or enhanced as considered appropriate for their role.

4.2 Allegations against staff and volunteers

- All staff and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult.
- If an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Town Clerk who is the Safeguarding Lead, or the Deputy Town Clerk, as Safeguarding Deputy Lead.
- The Town council should follow the Kent SBC (Safeguarding Children's Board) procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers on the Kent SBC website. <https://www.kscmp.org.uk/> No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). See contact details below.

4.3 Whistleblowing

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

4.4 What should be a cause for concern

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or vulnerable adult. Abuse falls into four main categories and can include child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

All staff and volunteers coming in to contact with children need to have an awareness of safeguarding. Free introductory online training or more specific face to face safeguarding training can be booked at www.kscmp.org.uk

All agencies working with children are recommended to follow the multi-agency procedures at: www.kscmp.org.uk

4.5 Useful Safeguarding Contact Details

Contact	Email	Telephone
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) To report a concern of abuse or neglect call the MASH Team	kscmp@kent.gov.uk	03000 42 11 26

Contact	Email	Telephone
Local Authority Designated Officer To report an allegation against a person in a position of trust	kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk	03000 41 08 88 If a call is urgent i.e a child is in immediate danger and requires safeguarding, call 03000 41 11 11. If a call is urgent and outside of office hours call 03000 41 91 91.

4.6 Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) –

For general safeguarding issues and training please contact the KSCB team.

Contact	Email	Telephone
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Kent Safeguarding Children Board	kscmp@kent.gov.uk	03000 41 85 03
Website: www.kscmp.org.uk/		