

Baldons Parish Council

The Baldons Parish Council Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

The Baldons Parish Council does not work directly with children, young people or vulnerable adults, nor does it hire out any premises or organise any activities involving these groups. However, the Council is aware that everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

This policy outlines the practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The policy will be reviewed, annually, by the parish council.

Definitions

Children and young people

- Anyone under the age of 18 years.

Vulnerable Adult

- Anyone over 18 years who is:
 - ◆ Unable to care for themselves
 - ◆ Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
 - ◆ In need of community care services.

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of The Baldons Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary, or commissioned capacity.

Promoting a safe environment

The Baldons Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its activities. To achieve this, the Council will:

- Nominate a suitably trained safeguarding officer who will act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Ensure that all members of the Council are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Provide Councillors with the contact details of the various agencies responsible for safeguarding (see appendix 1).

Councillors have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but they are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be referred to the DSL as soon as possible, if the DSL is not available, then they should contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Allegations against staff and volunteers

The Council will follow the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board procedures for managing allegations against any member of the Council (www.oscb.org.uk).

No attempt will be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the LADO.

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Whistleblowing

The Council recognises that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where councillors or volunteers fail to do so. All members of the Council 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 the Safeguarding Team.

What should be a cause for concern

Members of the Council 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.

Abuse falls into four main categories:

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

Members of the Council need to have an awareness that there are many other forms of abuse ranging from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

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Appendix 1. Useful Safeguarding Contact Details

Key Personnel	Contact number
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) - Tom James	07484 800277
Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) www.oscb.org.uk	01865 810603
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/information-providers/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub	0345 050 7666
Out of hours Emergency Duty Team (EDT)	0800 833408
Police	101 or in emergencies 999

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