



THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Safeguarding Policy

Policy statement

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. This policy promotes good safeguarding practice for everyone using Thornborough Parish Council (TPC) facilities and/or participating in TPC events. TPC is committed to ensuring the safety of those using its facilities and takes its safeguarding responsibilities seriously.

This policy will be reviewed periodically and will be updated as and when the legislation and/or good practice changes.

Definitions

Children and Young People: anyone under the age of 18 years.

Vulnerable Adults: anyone aged 18 years and over who is unable to care for themselves and/or protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation or may have or need community care services.

Scope of policy

This policy applies to the TPC councillors and clerk. It also applies to anyone undertaking paid or voluntary work for/with TPC. Any individual who uses TPC facilities to provide organised activities/events for children and/or vulnerable adults must adhere to the policy. Organisations using TPC facilities to provide activities/events for children and/or vulnerable adults must have their own safeguarding policy or adhere to the TPC safeguarding policy.

Promoting a safe environment

TPC will provide a safe environment for children and/or vulnerable adults by:

- Providing safe facilities and undertaking regular safety checks
- Ensuring the parish facilities are professionally inspected annually
- Requiring the councillors, the clerk and those using its facilities to be aware of the safeguarding expectations and their responsibilities for safeguarding
- Publishing this policy on the TPC website and taking all reasonable steps to ensure residents are aware of it. Anyone requiring advice or help should initially contact the Clerk who will ensure the councillors are informed and/or involved as appropriate.

Expectations

TPC expects everyone using its facilities to:

- Communicate, behave and interact professionally.
- Treat everyone with respect and show consideration to others.
- Refrain from any behaviour involving racism, sexism, homophobia and bullying.
- Report any instances of racist, sexist, homophobic and bullying behaviour to the clerk in the first instance. Any concerns about the clerk's behaviour should be reported to the Chair of TPC and/or one of the councillors.

Safe working practices

All users of parish facilities must adhere to this policy and appropriate safeguarding procedures. For example:

- Never leave children, young people or vulnerable adults in the care of anyone who has not been DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked.
- Plan activities involving more than one leader/responsible adult. Ensuring where possible that both female and male leaders/responsible adults are involved in organised activities using parish facilities.
- Use registers/event attendance lists – children under the age of 8 years must be accompanied or collected by a parent, carer or nominated responsible adult.
- Written permission must be obtained from a parent, carer or nominated responsible adult before any photos or videos are taken.
- Ensure first aid kits and telephones are in place and there is familiarity with the fire evacuation procedures of the facility if and as appropriate.
- Participants should wear suitable clothing for the weather conditions and/or activities.

What should be a cause for concern

Any actions or inactions which sufficiently harms the physical or emotional wellbeing and development of any child, young person or vulnerable adult. Abuse tends to fall under the following categories:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Financial abuse/manipulation.

Allegations/whistleblowing

TPC will not investigate reported concerns without consulting and taking advice from Buckinghamshire Council TPC must not make a judgement about whether any allegation/whistleblowing merits further investigation without a decision from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or the Local Authority Safeguarding Officer (LASO).

Contact information

- Safeguarding children and young people under the age of 18 years
Local Authority Designated Officer 012296 382070
emailsecure-LADO@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults over the age of 18 years
Local Authority Safeguarding Manager; laso@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Clerk, Thornborough Parish Council
clerk@thornboroughparish.org.uk