

Buckworth Parish Council 21/05/2024

Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy: Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults within the parish and participating in activities supported by the BPC. The policy will be reviewed by the BPC every 3 years.

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

Employees and Councillors: Anyone working for, or on behalf of BPC whether paid or voluntary

Substantial Access :

- Where an individual is regularly caring for, training or supervising a child, young person or vulnerable adult
- Where an individual has sole charge of children, young people or vulnerable adults

Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, BPC wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in relation to all the activities it supports. In order to achieve this, BPC will:

1. Undertake regular safety assessments in relation to activities.
2. Publish a written Code of Conduct for organizers and participants in any supported event or activity.
3. Publish a Context for Safe Working for those with substantial access to children, young people or vulnerable adults.
4. Ensure that employees, councillors and group leaders of activities supported by the BPC are aware of the safeguarding culture.
5. Require employees and councillors who come into regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties, to undergo appropriate CRB checks. These checks to be repeated every 3 years.
6. Make available on public notice boards and to employees and councillors, the contact details of the Social Services Duty Officer, NSPCC and Childline.

Setting the Right Context for Safe Working

Where BPC supports events involving children, young people or vulnerable adults when the group leader has substantial access and parents/carers are not present, the group leader will need to have a suitable safeguarding policy or work to that of BPC and follow this context for safe working. This is designed to protect participants and to protect those running or assisting with groups from allegations of poor practice or abuse.

Safe Context

1. Implement the safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults policy and procedures at all times.
2. Never leave children, young people or vulnerable adults unattended with adults who have not been subject to a criminal records bureau check.
3. Do not allow allegations to go unchallenged, unrecorded and unreported.

Good preparation

1. 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 your whereabouts and intended action.
2. Where possible, have male and female leaders working with a mixed group.
3. Ensure registers are complete and attendees are marked in and signed out (under 8's must be collected by a parent/carer).
4. Ensure photos or videos are not taken without written permission from parents/carers (example permission slip is available from the Clerk).
5. Ensure you have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire procedures.
6. 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 you can be seen.
7. Ensure appropriate clothing is worn by yourself and those participating at all times.
8. When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

Setting the Right Environment

1. Set an example you wish others to follow.
2. Treat everyone with respect.
3. Ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to participate.
4. Do not show favouritism.
5. Do not do things of a personal nature that individuals cannot do for themselves.
6. Deal firmly and fairly with attention seeking behaviour.