

Nafferton Parish Council

Safeguarding Children Policy Youth/Community Shelter

The welfare of the child is paramount. All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse

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1. *Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy Statement*

Nafferton Parish Council believe that the safety and protection of all children using the facility is paramount. Although the facility cannot be supervised, Nafferton Parish Council have a duty to look into and report any suspicions, concerns or allegations raised by a member of the public, adult or child.

This will be done through adherence to the guidelines set out below, adopted by Nafferton Parish Council.

2. *Policy Aims*

The aim of the Nafferton Parish Council Safeguarding Policy is to provide the general public with a Safeguarding Co-ordinator to report to, should they have a concern with regards to the welfare of a child or children, and to detail the action to be taken in the event of different types of concern.

3. *Definitions*

A child is anyone under the age of 18. The term “young person” is in the upper age ranges of the official definition of a child. The term has no legal status - it acknowledges that people aged 16 or 17 may not think of themselves as “children”.

Safeguarding is the process of protecting children and young people from harm, neglect and exploitation, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up/living in circumstances consistent with them having optimum life chances.

The types of harm to children are detailed in appendix 1. Somebody may harm or neglect a child or vulnerable adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm.

4. *Promoting Good Practice*

Children and vulnerable adults may be harmed in a family or in an institutional or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be harmed by a man or a woman, of any age, or even by another child.

Some individuals will actively seek out where young people are likely to be in order to harm them.

This facility is provided for young people and the community. Therefore a member of the public may be an important link in identifying cases where a child may be at risk.

5. *Named Safeguarding Co-ordinator*

The named Safeguarding Co-ordinator is:

Name: Karen Calvert

Contact number: Work: 07721750948, Home: 07963056935

Date commenced in role: 12th February 2009

Date role to be reviewed: 10th February 2010

Deputy

The responsibilities of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator are detailed within this policy and will be confirmed in writing to them by the Parish Council.

The Safeguarding Co-ordinator will have attended a Safeguarding Children Training Course. The Co-ordinator must keep this training up to date. The East Riding Safeguarding Children Board (01482 396999, www.erscb.org.uk) can offer advice on which course is appropriate and how often this training should be refreshed.

In the event of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator being unavailable (e.g. on holiday) a deputy co-ordinator will be nominated.

6. Responding to Concerns

It is not the responsibility of any member of Nafferton Parish Council or the Safeguarding Co-ordinator to decide whether or not child harm has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities.

Nafferton Parish Council will assure all members of the public that they will fully support anyone who in good faith reports his/her concern for the welfare of a child/children who are using the facility.

Any suspicion that a child has been harmed or is potentially at risk of being harmed should be reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, who will take such steps as considered necessary to immediately deal with the concern.

6.1 Anyone contacting the Parish Council about a safeguarding issue, should have their contact details noted down and passed immediately to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, who should then ring them back to discuss their concern within 24 hours. For very urgent concerns see below:

6.2 Very urgent situations (immediate risk of harm)

If a situation is very urgent e.g. a young person is being attacked or appears to be at immediate risk of harm, the police must be contacted on 999 by the person who has taken the call/witnessed the incident. The Safeguarding Co-ordinator must then be informed as soon as possible.

6.3 If the concern is about a child or children

The Safeguarding Co-ordinator should decide if there are grounds to be concerned about the child's welfare. If there are, a Referral must be made to Children's Social Care (even if the Police have already been contacted) via 01482 393939 (24 hour call centre).

If the Co-ordinator is unsure about whether to make a referral or not then they should seek advice through the NSPCC (0808 8005000), the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board (01482 396999) or the Senior Play and Early Years Officer, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, (01482 392521).

In the event of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator being unavailable, anyone -including members of the public - can make a Referral to Children's Social Care on 01482 393939.

6.4 If the concern is about the behaviour of a member of the public

The Police must be contacted (999 emergency/0845 6060222 non emergency).

6.5 If the concern or allegation is about a volunteer, member of the Parish Council or other professional e.g. from a partner organisation

The LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) must be contacted via the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board 01482 396999/01482 396998. The LADO will involve the Police and Children's Social Care as appropriate. As always, if there is, or seems to be, immediate risk to a child or children, the police must be contacted immediately on 999.

6.6 Allegations of previous harm

Allegations of abuse may be made some time after the event. Where such an allegation is made, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should follow the procedures detailed above. This is because other children using the facility may be at risk.

7. Action if bullying is suspected

Concerns about bullying will be reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator who will carry out the following actions, working in partnership with another local qualified person such as a teacher or youth worker.

Actions to help the victim and prevent bullying:

- Take all signs of bullying very seriously.*
- Encourage all children to speak and share their concerns (it is believed up to 12 children per year commit suicide as a result of bullying, so if anyone talks about or threatens suicide, seek professional help immediately).*
- Investigate all allegations and take action to ensure the victim is safe. Speak with the victim and the alleged bully(ies) separately, working with another professional (never be alone with a child or invite them into your home or car.*
- Reassure the victim that you can be trusted and will help them, although you cannot promise to tell no-one else.*
- Keep records of what is said (what happened, by whom, when).*
- Bullying which involves the threat of serious physical harm should be reported to the Police.*

8. Information required when concerns are passed on (e.g. to Children's Social Care, the LADO or the Police.)

To ensure that this information is as helpful as possible, a detailed record must always be made at the time of the disclosure/concern, which should include the following:

- *Whether or not the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else.*
- *The nature of the allegation. Include dates, times, any special factors and other relevant information.*
- *Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.*
- *Details of witnesses to the incidents.*
- *The child's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred.*
- *Have the parents been contacted? (NB if the parents or family are the alleged perpetrators, do not contact them).*
- *If so, what has been said?*
- *Has anyone been alleged to be the abuser? Record details.*
- *Where possible referrals to the Police, Children's Social Care or the LADO should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours and the name of the contact who took the referral should be recorded.*

If anyone is worried about sharing concerns with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, they can contact Children's Social Care (01482 393939) or the police (0845 6060222 non emergency) direct, or the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0808 800 5000, or Childline on 0800 1111.

9. Confidentiality

Confidentiality shall be maintained at all times. Information shall be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only.

This includes the following people:

- *The Safeguarding Co-ordinator.*
- *The parents of the person who is alleged to have been abused (only under advice of Children's Social Care or the Police).*
- *The person making the allegation.*
- *Children's Social Care/Police.*
- *Any Chair of Nafferton Parish Council (unless they are the alleged abuser).*

Any contact with the alleged abuser will be organised by Children's Social Care or the Police.

Information should be stored in a secure place with limited access to designated people, in line with data protection laws (i.e. that information is accurate, regularly updated, relevant and secure).

10. If a child discloses any information about harm to you:

- *Discuss confidentiality, and that you will try to offer support, but say that you may have to pass the information on keeping them safe.*
- *Allow the child to speak without interruption, accepting what is said.*
- *Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement.*
- *Reassure the child that they have done the right thing by telling you.*
- *Report to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator as above.*

11. Support to deal with the aftermath of a safeguarding issue

Support should be made available to anyone who has dealt with or being involved with a safeguarding issue. Support is available through the following contacts:

- *Senior Play and Early Years Officer, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, 01482 392521*
- *The British Association for Counselling, 1 Regent Place, Rugby, CV21 2PJ, Tel: 01788 550899, Email: bac@bacp.co.uk*

12. Safer Recruitment

If at any point Nafferton Parish Council seek to employ staff or volunteers to work with young people, either directly or through a partner organisation, the safer recruitment guidance available from the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board www.erscb.org.uk will be followed.

13. Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed at least on an annual basis and whenever new guidance is issued by the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board.

On behalf of Nafferton Parish Council, we, the undersigned, will oversee the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and take all necessary steps to ensure it is adhered to.

Signed:

1..... 2.....

Name:

1..... 2.....

Position within Nafferton Parish Council

1..... 2.....

Date:

1..... 2.....

Review Date:

.....
(NB this policy should be reviewed at least annually.)

APPENDIX 1

Abuse and neglect (children)

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment), failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-

takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

The concept of significant harm

The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. The Local Authority is under a duty to make enquiries, or cause enquiries to be made, where it has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm (Section 47).

A Court may only make a Care Order (committing the child to the care of the Local Authority) or Supervision Order (putting the child under the supervision of a Social Worker or Probation Officer) in respect of a child if it is satisfied that:

- the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm; and*
- that the harm or likelihood of harm is attributable to a lack of adequate parental care or control.*

What constitutes significant harm?

There are no absolute criteria on which to rely when judging what constitutes significant harm. Consideration of the severity of ill treatment may include the degree and the extent of physical harm, the duration and frequency of abuse and neglect, the extent of premeditation, the presence and degree of threat, and/or coercion, sadism, and bizarre or unusual elements in child sexual abuse. Each of these elements has been associated with more severe effects on the child, and/or relatively greater difficulty in helping the child overcome the adverse impact of the ill-treatment.

Sometimes a single traumatic event may constitute significant harm e.g. a violent assault, suffocation or poisoning. More often, significant harm is a compilation of significant events, both acute and longstanding, which interrupt, change or damage the child's physical and psychological development.

Some children live in family and social circumstances where their health and development are neglected. For them, it is the corrosiveness of long-term emotional, physical or sexual abuse that causes impairment to the extent of constituting significant harm. In each case, it is necessary to consider any ill-treatment alongside the family's strengths and support.