



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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Purpose of Policy

The purpose of the Safeguarding Policy is to provide a framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults. The policy aims to ensure that:

- All children, young people and adults are safe and protected from harm;
- Other elements or provision and policies are in place to enable children, young people and adults to feel safe and adopt safe practices; and
- Everyone (e.g. Councillors, council staff, trustees and volunteers) are aware of the expected behaviours and the Town Council's legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults.

Policy Statement

This policy develops procedures and good practice within the Town Council to ensure that each person can demonstrate that there is an understanding of the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Town Council deplores the sexual exploitation of children and will not tolerate failure at any level to prevent harm, support victims and bring offenders to justice.

This policy has been developed in line with government legislation, publications and guidance.

The Town Council takes seriously its responsibility under the current legislation to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults; and to work together with other agencies to ensure that there are adequate arrangements within the Town Council to identify and support those who are suffering harm. Where someone is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, action will be taken to protect that person.

The Town Council has a responsibility to make sure that it has an effective safeguarding policy and procedures in place and monitors that the council complies with them. The Town Council has appointed a Safeguarding Lead who has responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues.

The Town Council recognises that for this policy to be effective, it is essential that everyone working for the Town Council has an understanding of what safeguarding is, know that 'safeguarding is everybody's responsibility', know how to access safeguarding information, know of any possible contribution that they may be required to make to safeguard children, young people and adults and how to access further advice, support or services.

Individual Responsibilities

The Town Council recognises that safeguarding is not just about protecting children, young people and adults from deliberate harm. It also relates to health and safety; meeting the needs of children, young people and adults with medical conditions; providing first aid; visits organised or sponsored by the council; internet or e-safety; appropriate arrangements to ensure security, taking into account the local context.

Additionally, we recognise that safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as: bullying, including cyberbullying (by text message, on social networking sites and so on), peer on peer and prejudice-based bullying; racist and homophobic or transphobic abuse; sexting; substance misuse; issues which may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence and other particular issues affecting children including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, extremist behaviour and radicalisation, forced marriage and modern slavery.

Our induction process includes information on our arrangements and systems for safeguarding, behaviour policy, code of conduct and details of the Safeguarding Lead.

We recognise our responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and young people under the age 18 and vulnerable adults over the age of 18 who may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

The Town Council recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse and exploitation. All people have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation and to that end the Town Council adopts this policy that applies to, and must be followed, by all Town Councillors, staff,

employees and volunteers (referred to as representatives of the Town Council).

The following principles are those upon which this Safeguarding Policy is based:

- The welfare of a child, young person and a vulnerable adult will always be paramount
- The welfare of families, the vulnerable and the elderly will be promoted
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families and vulnerable adults will be respected and listened to
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the Town Council will work in accordance with the interests of those safeguarded and follow the policy outlined below This document is written in accordance with the 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' produced by the Department of Education in 2018 and The Care Act 2014.

Prevention and Reporting of Abuse and Responding to Concern

It is the duty of every representative of the Town Council, whether that representative be a Councillor, staff, employee or volunteer, to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect or exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is the duty of all to respond to concerns about the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The Town Council will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked to the activity or facility of the Town Council or Town Council representatives.

Safe Recruitment, Support and Supervision of Workers

The Town Council will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, whether paid or voluntary.

The Town Clerk will arrange for the appropriate level of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Town Council representatives routinely

working with children, young people or vulnerable adults will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of those deemed to be at risk.

Safe Practice and Safe Premises

The Town Council is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children, young people and vulnerable adults and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and wellbeing.

The Terms and Conditions of hire of the Town Hall include Safeguarding provisions relating to the hire of the venue.

Responsible People

The Town Council has appointed the Town Clerk and Councillor Cleeve as the Designated Persons for Safeguarding.

The Designated Persons for Safeguarding will oversee and monitor implementation of this policy and any resultant procedures on behalf of the Town Council. In particular, the Designated Persons for Safeguarding will:

- Undertake appropriate Safeguarding training;
- Advise the Town Council on any matters related to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults; and
- Take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Policy and Procedures

Each representative of the Town Council working with children, young people or vulnerable adults, whether paid or voluntary, will be given a copy of this policy and resultant procedures and will be required to follow them. A full copy of this policy and any resultant procedures will be made available on request to any member of the local community. This policy and any resultant procedures will be monitored and reviewed.

Training

Everyone will have access to appropriate safeguarding training which is regularly updated in order to keep it updated in line with local and

national guidance / legislation. We will also, as part of our induction, issue information in relation to our Safeguarding Policy and any other policy and information related to safeguarding and promoting our Safeguarding Policy to all newly appointed individuals.

Date of policy: July 2025

Approving Committee: Personnel & Town Council

Date of Committee meeting: July/September 2025

Policy Review: Yearly, if required or sooner if there are changes in legislation or other relevant matters