



*Okehampton Town Council*

# Okehampton Town Council

## Safeguarding Policy

### 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 using Town Council facilities.

The policy will be reviewed regularly.

### 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

### To whom this policy applies

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

### Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Okehampton Town Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this, the Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
- Ensure that employees, and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
- Make available on public noticeboard, to employees and councillors relevant contact details

Employees, councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed to:

- Police - 999 or 101
- NSPCC – 0808 8005000
- Devon Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)  
01392 384964, or  
[childsc.localauthoritydesignatedofficerssecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:childsc.localauthoritydesignatedofficerssecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

### Allegations against staff and volunteers

- All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child, young person or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

- All staff should be aware of the Council's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.
- The Council should follow the Devon County Council Safeguarding procedures for managing allegations <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/child-protection/managing-allegations-against-adults-working-with-children>

No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the Devon Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who can be contacted on:  
01392 384964, or  
[childsc.localauthoritydesignatedofficerssecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:childsc.localauthoritydesignatedofficerssecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

### **Whistleblowing**

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.

All staff and volunteers 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.

### **What should be a cause for concern**

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child. 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:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

All staff and volunteers 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).

Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children will have accessed appropriate child protection training through the LADO but further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the LADO website. All agencies, whether statutory, voluntary or other are obliged to follow the procedures laid out on the LADO website.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/child-protection/managing-allegations-against-adults-working-with-children>.