

Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Statement

Embleton Parish Council recognises its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk. The Council is committed to ensuring that its activities are conducted in a manner which protects individuals from harm.

The Council acknowledges that safeguarding is a shared responsibility and will take appropriate action where concerns are raised.

2. Scope

This policy applies to councillors, the Clerk, volunteers acting on behalf of the Council, working groups operating under Council authority, and contractors delivering services on Council land.

It covers activities including the provision of play areas, quarry volunteer activities, fundraising events organised under the Council's authority, and use of Council facilities.

3. Definitions

Child: A person under 18 years of age.

Adult at risk: A person aged 18 or over who has care and support needs and may be unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect as defined in the Care Act 2014.

Abuse may include physical, emotional, sexual or financial abuse, neglect, discriminatory abuse or exploitation.

4. Council Role

The Parish Council does not provide regulated childcare and is not a safeguarding authority.

The Council will not investigate safeguarding concerns. Its role is to refer concerns to the appropriate statutory body and to ensure reasonable precautions are in place for Council-led activities.

5. Responsibilities

The Clerk is the Council's designated safeguarding contact.

Councillors and volunteers must report safeguarding concerns immediately, not investigate allegations themselves, maintain confidentiality, and record factual information only.

6. Reporting Procedure

If a child or adult is in immediate danger, call 999.

Non-urgent concerns should be referred to Northumberland Children's Services,

Northumberland Adult Safeguarding Team, or Northumbria Police (101).

The Clerk should be informed as soon as practicable. A written record of the concern will be made and retained securely.

7. Play Area Provision

The Council provides play equipment but does not supervise children. Parents and carers remain responsible for the supervision of children using the play area.

Appropriate signage will state that children must be supervised by a responsible adult.

8. Volunteers and Events

For Council-organised events involving children, parents or carers remain responsible for supervision unless explicitly stated otherwise.

The Council will avoid unsupervised one-to-one contact between adults and children. At least two responsible adults should be present where volunteers are involved.

Risk assessments will be completed for events organised under Council authority.

Where legislation requires Disclosure and Barring Service checks, appropriate checks will be undertaken.

9. Contractors and Hirers

Groups using Council land or facilities for activities involving children or vulnerable adults must confirm that they have appropriate safeguarding policies, adequate insurance, and DBS arrangements where required.

10. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Safeguarding information will be handled in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis and with relevant statutory authorities.

11. Whistleblowing

The Council will take seriously any allegation made in good faith. Concerns about safeguarding practices may be raised with the Clerk or reported directly to the relevant statutory authority.

12. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or local circumstances change.