

Hartley Wintney Parish Council – Adult Safeguarding Policy

Approved by Policy Committee: 15.07.2021

Approved by Full Council: 06.09.2021

Date for review: July 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Policy applies to vulnerable adults.
- 1.2 Everyone has a duty to safeguard vulnerable adults.
- 1.3 This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of vulnerable adults using Hartley Wintney Parish Council facilities.
- 1.4 This policy will be reviewed in line with the Hartley Wintney Policy Committee 'Policy Review Cycle'.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 Vulnerable adult: anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation; or may need community care services.

3. Policy Application

- 3.1 This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Hartley Wintney Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

4. Promoting a safe environment

- 4.1 In order to promote a safe environment for vulnerable adults, Hartley Wintney Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and areas of activity. In order to achieve this, Hartley Wintney Parish Council will:
 - ensure that organisations responsible for events and undertakings in the Parish Council owned premises have appropriate policies and safeguarding practices in place.
 - where facilities are owned by the Parish Council, provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments.
 - ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations.
- 4.2 Employees, councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is or has taken place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the authorities as detailed below as soon as possible.

5. Allegations against staff and volunteers

- 5.1 All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a vulnerable adult.

5.2 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the Hampshire Safeguarding Teams (contact details below).

Hampshire County Council - 0300 555 1386

If the matter is not urgent, you can use the Hampshire County Council online form to report your concern

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/contact/start-a-referral>

Non- Urgent Medical advice - NHS 111 service or the adults GP if known.

Emergency - 999

Hampshire Police 101

6. Whistleblowing

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

6.2 All staff, Councillors 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 Hampshire County Council Safeguarding Teams.

7. What should be a cause for concern.

7.1 Staff, Councillors and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a vulnerable adult. A vulnerable adult may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and their peers. Abuse can occur in any family and in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location.

7.2 Abuse falls into five main categories:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- financial abuse
- neglect

7.3 Staff, Councillors and volunteers who engage with vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training.

7.4 Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the Hampshire County Council website

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/safeguarding>