



Kessingland Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all members, staff, volunteers and contractors know what is required concerning the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to participate, have fun and be safe in the services provided for them as well as the activities they, or their parents/carers, choose for them. This policy will help to maintain a safe and positive environment for children and vulnerable adults.

Policy Coverage

This policy applies to all members, employees, volunteers and contractors working in partnership with Kessingland Parish Council. Under the Children Act 2004, Kessingland Parish Council has a duty to co-operate with other agencies and authorities to promote the well-being of children and young people.

Suffolk County Council is the lead agency for the protection of vulnerable adults.

It is not the role of Kessingland Parish Council to investigate allegations of abuse. However, all members, employees, volunteers and contracted service providers have a responsibility to act when they suspect or recognise that a child or vulnerable adult may be a victim of significant harm or abuse. This policy is to be used in conjunction with the Council's Risk Management Policy, Health and Safety Policies, Equal Opportunities Policy, Complaints Policy and Procedure, Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures.

The phrase 'children, young people and vulnerable adults' refers to:

- Anyone under the age of 18 years
- Someone who is over the age of 18 who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reasons of mental health or other disability, age or illness and is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

When the term 'parent(s)' is used, it is used in the broadest sense to include parent(s), carer(s) and/or guardian(s).

Policy Principles

Kessingland Parish Council recognises that all children and vulnerable adults have an equal right to protection from abuse. It is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and protecting them from abuse when they are engaged in services organised and/or provided by, or on behalf of, the Council.

Referrals of suspicions of abuse cannot be anonymous and should be made in the knowledge that, during such enquiries, the agency that made that referral will be made clear. Kessingland Parish Council will not tolerate the harassment of any member, employee, volunteer, contracted service provider or child/vulnerable adult who raises concerns of abuse.

Policy Statement

Kessingland Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons who use its services and will promote a safeguarding culture and environment.

- It will proactively seek to promote the welfare and protection of all children vulnerable adults living in the local community.
- It will endeavour to keep children and vulnerable adults safe from abuse.
- It will endeavour to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children and vulnerable adults through, as appropriate, its recruitment and selection policy and by reminding hirers of their safeguarding responsibilities.
- It will take any concern made by a member, employee, volunteer or contracted service provider or child/vulnerable adult seriously and treat it with sensitivity.
- Suspicion of abuse will be responded to promptly and appropriately.
- It will always act in the best interests of the child or vulnerable adult.

Kessingland Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults and promoting their welfare.

The council will ensure that all members, employees, volunteers, contractors, and hirers are provided either a digital or paper copy of this policy and procedures during their introduction to the council. Members, employees and volunteers will have access to Safeguarding training at the earliest opportunity. Representing Kessingland Parish Council as a Member or working as an employee, volunteer or contracted service provider of the Council, it is important that you have taken the time to thoroughly read and understand the Safeguarding Policy and any relevant procedures. It is the Council's intention that, by raising safeguarding awareness amongst those involved with the council and the wider community, it will ensure that more people are proactive in providing a safe and secure environment for the children and vulnerable adults in our community.