Brinkley Parish council

Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk of harm Policy

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of harm.

This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children and adults at risk of harm using BPC facilities and assets or any event organised by the council. Brinkley Parish Council recognises its responsibilities under the Working Together to Safeguard Children Act 2023, the Care act 2014 and the Children Act 2004.

Definitions

Children:

Anyone under the age of 18 years

Adult at risk of harm:

Under the care act 2014 an adult at risk is someone over 18 years old who:

- *has care and support needs*
- *is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect*
- *as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it*

Employees and Councillors:

Anyone working for or representing Brinkley Parish Council whether paid or voluntary.

Responsibilities and Procedures

All staff, volunteers and councillors (paid or unpaid) have responsibility to follow the guidance laid out in this policy, and to pass on any welfare concerns using the required procedures. We expect all staff, volunteers and councillors (paid or unpaid) to promote good practice by being an excellent role model, contribute to discussions about safeguarding and to positively involve people in developing safe practices.

Brinkley Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and do regular safety assessments including Annual Rospa inspections where appropriate.
- Ensure that employees, councillors and leaders of activities in/on Parish Council facilities, are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Treat all children, young people and adults at risk of harm with respect and listen to their views and concerns.
- Require employees and councillors who come into regular contact with children, young people or adults at risk of harm during the course of their duties, to undergo appropriate DBS checks. These checks to be repeated every 3 years. The Clerk will keep a record of employees and councillors who have undergone DBS checking. No child, young person or adult at risk of harm will ever be left unattended with adults who have not been subject to a DBS check at any event organised by Brinkley Parish council.
- Maintain channels of communication with leaders of groups involving children, young people and Adults at risk of harm through the Annual Parish meeting, the Council website and the Village Voice newsletter.
- Make available on the website and to employees and councillors, the Brinkley Parish Council; Children, Young People and Adults at risk of harm Policy
- Ensure that this policy is implemented at all relevant times.
- Staff, councillors and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which could significantly harm the physical and/or emotional development of a child or adult at risk of harm. Any concerns should be acted upon promptly. If a child or adult at risk of is believed to be in immediate danger and needs urgent help, the police should be informed on 999. In other cases where there is a concern or if a child or adult at risk of harm makes an allegation then the individual receiving this should report this to the Safeguarding Teams at Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Services: Telephone: 0345 045 5203 or complete a referral online:

  Report abuse of a child https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Childrens_Services_online_referral_form

  Adults at risk of harm: Telephone: 0345 045 5202 or complete a referral online:

  Report concerns about an Adult at Risk

  https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Safeguarding_referral_form

  The Emergency Duty Team (Out of Hours) can be reached on 01733 234724.

  All staff, councillors and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or adult at risk of harm. If an allegation is made against a member of

staff, councillor or volunteer, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Clerk of the Parish Council.

- Should any activities be planned by the Parish council we will ensure that this involves more than one person being present to oversee the activity. Where possible, there will be both male and female leaders. We will ensure photos or videos are not taken without written permission from parents/carers. If concerns are raised that a stranger is taking photographs of the children or adults at risk of harm the police will be called in order to safeguard them. Should any first aid be required, this will be carried out in pairs or in a place where it is visible to others. When working outside we will ensure that activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

Code of Conduct for users of Parish Council Facilities

In order to support a safeguarding culture for all users of parish facilities, we have developed a code of conduct. This will help to ensure a safe atmosphere whilst using BPC facilities and at all activities and events. In this spirit, we request all users to:

- Treat each other with respect.

- Show consideration for other groups using the facilities.

- Treat the facilities provided with due care and respect.

- Provide an example of good conduct that you wish others to follow.

- Refrain from any inappropriate behaviour towards others and in addition report any instances of such behaviour to group leaders, parish councillors, the parish clerk or parents and carers, as appropriate.