

# **Buckland Parish Council**

## **Safeguarding Policy**

### **Policy Statement**

Buckland Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

### **Policy Objective:**

To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable people.

To promote the general welfare, health, and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation.

As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children, it expects all children using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.

To adhere to advice issued by Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) with respect to suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.

### **Aims**

The aim of this policy document is to guide Parish Councillors should any child protection issue or any issues with adults with care and support needs arise during their term of office.

### **Responsibilities & Procedures**

The Clerk shall:

- (i) issue the Safeguarding Policy to all newly appointed Parish Councillors; and
- (ii) ensure a copy of the latest advice note, prepared by MVDC is attached to the Safeguarding Policy document.

All Parish Councillors shall be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities and ensure they adhere to the guidance set out in MVDC advice note.

**Date adopted : 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Date for next review: July 2026**

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## Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk

### What you need to know for Parish Councillors

All elected Councillors have a vital role to play in keeping children and adults who are vulnerable safe in our community. Parish Councils should understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and have a safeguarding policy in place.

We know there is a genuine commitment from all elected Councillors in Mole Valley to support the safe lives of their communities. The Parish Council is one partner in a multi-agency approach to safeguarding, so it is vital that all representatives understand their role and work to support that collaborative approach to keeping vulnerable residents safe. Parish Councillors have an important role to play when carrying out their duties.

Parish Councillors have a unique insight into their communities and are often asked to intervene in cases involving vulnerable people. They need to be aware of what to look out for as signs of abuse of neglect and how to deal with and report those concerns. They can also be powerful champions for the wellbeing of their communities and hold agencies to account if they have concerns about how someone's wellbeing is being safeguarded.

### What to look out for

Parish Councillors need to be aware of the types of abuse or neglect to look out for and how to report them if they have concerns. Types of abuse, and some tell-tale signs, are set out more fully in Mole Valley District Council's [Safeguarding Policy](#) in appendices 6 – 8. They include:

- Physical, domestic or sexual abuse, psychological or emotional abuse and financial abuse.
- Organisational abuse in care settings or in relation to care in someone's home
- Neglect of someone's needs and self-neglect
- Exploitation, this could include Modern Slavery and trafficking, gang activity, county lines, cuckooing and sexual exploitation.

### What to do if you have a concern

If you suspect that you have observed abuse or have had it disclosed to you by a member of our community you must act. **It is not your responsibility to decide whether what you have seen or the disclosure you have been given is true or not, you must simply report it so that it can be investigated by a professional.**

If you believe that someone is in <b>immediate danger</b> then contact the police in the first instance by calling 999.	
Otherwise report your concerns	
<p>About <b>Children</b> to:</p> <p>Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA)</p> <p>0300 470 9100  <a href="mailto:cspa@surreycc.gov.uk">cspa@surreycc.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to SCC website</p>	<p>About <b>Adults</b> who are vulnerable to:</p> <p>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</p> <p>0300 470 9100  <a href="mailto:ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk">ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to SCC website</p>

October 2024