

# Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council Safeguarding Policy

Adopted on 18<sup>TH</sup> March 2024

## **1. Executive Summary**

Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using parish council facilities. The policy will be reviewed regularly by the parish council.

Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council recognises that for this policy to be effective, it is essential that everyone working in and for the organisation understands what safeguarding is, knows that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and knows how to access further advice, support or services.

## **2. Definitions**

Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18

Vulnerable Adult: anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation as a result of age, frailty, disability, illness or lifestyle; in need of community care services.

## **3. Policy Objectives**

- To ensure where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk.
- 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.
- Whilst the parish council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children and vulnerable adults, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

## **4. Promoting a Safe Environment**

To promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council will:

- ensure that employees, councillors and volunteers are aware of safeguarding expectations and receive appropriate training
- provide a point of contact for reporting any concerns and for further information (Parish Clerk and/or Assistant Clerk)

## **5. Recognising Signs of Abuse**

### **5.1 Children** – look for changes in the following:

- appearance – such as frequent unexplained injuries, consistently poor hygiene, matted hair, unexplained gifts, parents regularly collecting children when drunk/under the influence of drugs

- behaviour – such as demanding or aggressive behaviour, frequent lateness, avoiding family members, misusing drugs or alcohol, being constantly tired
- communication – such as sexual or aggressive language, self-harming, becoming secretive and reluctant to share information or being overly obedient

## 5.2 Adults

Abuse or neglect of adults can be single or repeated acts, be done deliberately or unintentionally, be a result of a failure of other to protect them. It can occur in many forms, for example:

- **Physical abuse** – such as hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, or restraint
- **Domestic Abuse** – psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse or ‘honour-based violence’
- **Sexual abuse** – such as rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, or innuendo
- **Psychological abuse** – intimidation, bullying, shouting, swearing, taunting, threatening or humiliating someone.
- **Financial or material abuse** – theft, fraud, forcing someone to do something in relation to their financial arrangements (for example wills, property, financial transactions), misusing or taking their money, possessions or benefits.
- **Modern slavery** – Slavery (including domestic slavery), human trafficking and forced labour.
- **Discriminatory abuse** – such as harassment, slurs or similar treatment
- **Organisational abuse** – organisational neglect and poor care in an institution such as a hospital, care home or care agency. This could be a culture of bullying, poor organisation, denying people choice, and lack of dignity and respect for service users.
- **Neglect and acts of omission** – ignoring medical, emotional or physical-care needs, failing to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, and withholding necessities, such as medication, adequate food and drink and heating.
- **Self-neglect** – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding

## 6. Reporting Concerns

Staff, Councillors and volunteers should report any concerns as soon as possible to the Parish Office who will advise on the appropriate contact, or directly to the following:

Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Children’s Safeguarding/Social Work Team

**Telephone: i-ART - 0300 123 7047**

The team can be contacted 8.30am to 5pm from Monday to Thursday and 8.30am - 4.30pm on Friday.

**Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) on 01244 977277\*.**

Police

If you believe a crime has been committed	101
If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm	999

## **7. Allegations against Staff and Volunteers**

All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult and should not take on a supervisory role at any time whilst on duty for the parish council.

Should an allegation be made, the matter will be reported to the relevant organisation (see above) and the parish council will follow its own disciplinary procedures as appropriate, including suspension from work during any investigations if necessary.

## **8. Further Information**

Cheshire West and Chester Safeguarding partnership -  
<https://www.cheshirewestscp.co.uk/>

Gov.uk: Report child abuse - [www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse](http://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse)

NSPCC: What is child abuse - [www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/)

NHS: Child sexual abuse - [www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/spotting-signs-of-child-sexual-abuse/](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/spotting-signs-of-child-sexual-abuse/)

Action for Children - [www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/worried-about-a-child/](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/worried-about-a-child/)