

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council is committed to the human rights, health, well-being and safety of all children, young people (citizens under 18) and vulnerable adults who are either residing or visiting the village.

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of citizens and to protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means: protecting citizens from abuse and maltreatment, preventing harm to health or development, ensuring children specifically grow up with safe provision of safe and effective care.

The Safeguarding regulation is set out in the The Childrens Act (1989 and 2004), The Vulnerable Groups Act (SVGA) 2006 and the Children and Social Care Act 2017.

There are 6 principles of these regulations:

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

None of the activities of the Parish Council should involve any Councilor coming into contact with children or vulnerable adults. However, all Councilors are asked to remember that it is their responsibility to ensure that:

- Their behaviour is appropriate at all times.
- They observe the rules established for the safety and security of young and vulnerable people.
- They follow the procedures in the event of suspicion, disclosure or allegation of abuse.
- They recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed.

Abuse comes in several forms but is defined as:

- Physical (eg hitting, burning, choking, biting).
- Sexual (eg forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities, grooming, trafficking).
- Neglect (eg. failing to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter).
- Emotional (eg. seeing or hearing ill treatment of another (in a domestic violence situation)).

In the event of them being approached by a citizen on any matter concerning a resident in, or person visiting the village, a Code of Behaviour is detailed below and it is essential that Councilors adhere to it.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- Do put this code into practice at all times
- Do treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Do set an example you would wish others to follow
- Do treat all people equally
- Listen to the citizen repeat their words if necessary
- DO NOT question prompt or lead
- Reassure and support the citizen
- DO NOT pass judgement on what you are being told
- AFFIRM that the citizen has done the right thing
- Do not delay in passing on the information
- Record everything as it is happening or as soon as possible whilst it is fresh in your mind
- Do ensure more than one other adult is present at all times when dealing with a young person or vulnerable adult, do not make promises, safeguard yourself
- Do advise young person or vulnerable adult who they can talk to, if asked, about any concerns they may have
- Do make everyone aware of the Parish Council's child and vulnerable adult protection procedures, as outlined in this policy: young people, vulnerable adults, parents and other volunteers
- Do remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- Do not just rely on your good name to protect you.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Any concerns regarding the safety of children or vulnerable adults in the village should be reported immediately to:

Vulnerable Adults - [0300 303 3249](tel:03003033249) (Monday to Thursday: 9am to 5pm and Friday: 9am to 4.30pm)

At all other times (including bank holidays) please contact the Emergency Duty Team on [01228 526690](tel:01228526690)

Children and YP - [01768 812116](tel:01768812116)

Cumbria Safeguarding Hub - Out of Hours [0333 2401727](tel:03332401727)

For further information about services available, and also for information about types of abuse, signs to look out for and what to do if you are concerned, visit the Eden District Council and Cumbria Council websites