



Child Protection & Vulnerable Persons Policy

Responsibility: Personnel Sub-Committee

Review Cycle: Every four years, or earlier in the event of legislative or local Social Care changes

<u>Date of Adoption / Renewal</u>	<u>Resolution Number</u>	<u>Next Review Date</u>
October 2019	FCL19-10_105	May 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Herstmonceux Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons they come into contact with. The Parish Council promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

The Council recognise that abuse can happen anywhere and can be caused by anyone.

2. Safeguarding

- 2.1 The council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons, in that:
- The welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount
 - All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
 - All staff, volunteers and elected members of the council have a responsibility to report concerns

3. Types of Abuse – Children and Vulnerable Persons

- 3.1 We recognise the need to be vigilant against any form of ill-treatment or abuse of a child or vulnerable person (sometimes called significant harm). This could involve physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect.

4. Making a referral to the Local Authority Children’s Social Care team

- 4.1 In an emergency call 999
- 4.2 If a child is considered to be at **risk of significant harm**, the ESCC Single Point of Advice (SPoA) MUST be contacted on **01323 464222**. Safeguarding concerns must be shared with this team.
- 4.3 Further information can be found at <http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk/>
- 4.4 For out of hours (emergency) support outside of normal office hours – the Emergency Duty Service will be contacted on 01273 335905/6

5. Making a referral to the Local Authority Adult’s Safeguarding Board

- 5.1 In an emergency call 999
- 5.2 If an adult is considered to be at **risk of significant harm**, the Health and Social Care Connect MUST be contacted on **0345 60 80 191 / text 07797 878 111**. 8am to 8pm 7 days a week including Bank holidays
- 5.3 Further information can be found at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare>

- 6.4 Out of hours (emergency) support outside of normal office hours – the Emergency Duty Service will be contacted on 01323 636399

6. Duty of Care

- 6.1 Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out where necessary in accordance with the eligibility criteria in the Rehabilitations of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.
- 6.2 Herstmonceux Parish Council has a duty of care towards others which is managed by a range of processes including risk assessment and health & safety practices.
- 6.3 Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behavior by a member of staff or Councillor must be referred immediately to the Clerk who will refer the matter to the East Sussex County Council SPOA or Health and Social Care Connect contacts above, for investigation.