

Dullingham Parish Council

Vulnerable User (inc child protection)

Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

Dullingham Parish Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk who use, visit or come into contact with the Village Green Play Area and associated Parish Council facilities. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and concerns must be acted on promptly, proportionately and appropriately.

For the purposes of this policy:

- a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18;
- an adult at risk is an adult who has care and support needs, is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and because of those needs may be unable to protect themselves;
- safeguarding means taking action to promote welfare, prevent harm and respond appropriately to concerns.

The Play Area

The Play Area consists of timber play equipment suitable for children up to and including the age of twelve. The fenced area has two gates. The play equipment is checked by members of Dullingham Parish Council on a fortnightly basis and inspected annually by a RoSPA Registered Playground Inspector. Outside the fenced area there is a basket swing and a zip wire. Children remain the responsibility of their parent, carer or other responsible adult while using the Play Area.

Policy Statement

Dullingham Parish Council has a duty of care to provide and maintain facilities in a way that helps reduce risk and supports the safety of children, young people and adults at risk. The Council does not provide direct care, childcare, supervision or regulated activity through the Play Area, and expects children and adults at risk using its facilities to do so with appropriate consent and supervision from a parent, carer or responsible adult.

The Council will take all safeguarding concerns seriously, including concerns relating to physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, discriminatory, financial, domestic, organisational or neglectful abuse, exploitation, or modern slavery. This policy applies equally regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity.

Principles

The welfare of children, young people and adults at risk is paramount. All users of Parish Council facilities should be treated with dignity, respect and consideration. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, shouting, physical violence, abuse or neglect will not be tolerated.

Responsibilities and Procedures

1. The Parish Clerk will act as the Council's safeguarding contact unless the Council formally appoints another named safeguarding lead. The safeguarding contact will receive concerns, keep appropriate records, and signpost or refer matters to the relevant statutory agencies where required.
2. All Councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors working for or on behalf of

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the Council must be aware of this policy and must act promptly if they become aware of a safeguarding concern.

3. No Councillor, employee, volunteer or contractor should seek unsupervised access to children, young people or adults at risk while carrying out routine inspections, maintenance or other Council duties. Where possible, inspections and maintenance should be carried out when the Play Area is not being used by unsupervised children or adults at risk.
4. Where work, activities or services arranged by or on behalf of the Council could involve regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or adults at risk, the Council will consider whether appropriate recruitment checks, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks, are required before the activity begins.
5. Any suspicion, allegation or disclosure of abuse or neglect must be taken seriously. The person receiving the concern should listen, avoid asking leading questions, avoid promising confidentiality, record the concern as soon as possible using factual information, and report it to the safeguarding contact without delay. If a person is in immediate danger, the emergency services should be contacted immediately.
6. Safeguarding records must be kept securely and shared only with those who need to know in order to protect the person concerned or to meet legal obligations.
7. The Council will maintain the Play Area through regular inspections, prompt action on identified hazards where reasonably practicable, and annual independent inspection by a competent playground inspector.
8. Where Parish Council facilities are hired, leased or used by groups providing activities for children, young people or adults at risk, the Council will expect the organiser to hold appropriate public liability insurance, complete suitable risk assessments, operate an appropriate safeguarding policy or agree to work to this policy, and ensure that activity leaders have appropriate checks and supervision arrangements where required.
9. Relevant safeguarding contact details for advice and reporting should be displayed on the Parish Council website and, where practicable, on or near Parish Council noticeboards or signs associated with the Play Area.
10. This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if there are changes in legislation, statutory guidance, local safeguarding arrangements or Council activities.

Adopted 7 November 2011. Reviewed 16 May 2013, 3 July 2014, 21 May 2015, 3 July 2017, 5 November 2020 and 3 July 2026.

Formal Approval of this Safeguarding Policy

This is approved by:

Dullingham Parish Council

Reviewed and updated 3 July 2026.

Next review due July 2027, or earlier if required.