

Our Safeguarding Statement

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing, and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect.

Everyone who accesses our services or works for us in a paid or voluntary capacity, should feel safe, empowered to play a part in promoting their own welfare and that of others, and able to live a life free from abuse. This applies to all, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, or belief.

Everybody shares responsibility for safeguarding and alerting the appropriate service if a cause for concern arises.

This policy is written in relation to Buckinghamshire Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures version 5 March 2021 and Safeguarding Adults Policy, v4 July 2021 Communities, Health & Adult Social Care, Buckinghamshire Council.

This policy is written in relation to Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP), which has replaced the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in 2019. This new arrangement places joint responsibility for safeguarding children and young people on Buckinghamshire Council, Thames Valley Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Denham Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children, young adults, and vulnerable adults at risk by protecting them from any form of abuse.

Who is covered by and must comply with this policy

- All staff employed and contracted by Denham Parish Council
- Associated personnel whilst engaged with work or visits related to Denham Parish Council, including but not limited to the following: councillors, consultants, volunteers, and contractors.
- Applies to people and organisations that are using DPC facilities e.g. Martinsfield.

Our Policy for Prevention and Responsibilities

- Ensure all staff and councillors have access to, and know their responsibilities within this policy, as per the Councillor Handbook.
- Design and undertake all its programmes and activities (including developing risk assessments) in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from them coming into contact with Denham Parish Council. This includes the way in which information about individuals in our programmes is gathered and communicated.
- Implement stringent safeguarding procedures when recruiting, managing, and deploying staff and associated personnel.

Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by any personnel to the appropriate nominated person Safeguarding Councillor or Executive Clerk & RFO. Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process.

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy.
- Any staff reporting concerns or complaints through formal whistleblowing channels will be protected.
- Denham Parish Council will also accept relevant concerns raised by external sources such as members of the public, and official bodies.
- Denham Parish Council will ensure that regular volunteers, Councillors and staff who deal with the public, have undertaken a DBS check.
- Denham Parish Council will ensure any contractors working directly for this Council, in any area where children, young people, or vulnerable adults at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy.
- Denham Parish Council will ensure any organisation which may make contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults shall be required to show proof of its own appropriate Safeguarding Policy and nominated Safeguarding individual before being allowed to participate in the use of any council owned facilities.

How to report a safeguarding concern

- Staff members who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to their appointed Safeguarding Councillor (Chairman) or the Executive Clerk & RFO. If the staff member does not feel comfortable reporting to their Safeguarding Councillor or the Executive Clerk & RFO (for example if they feel that the report will not be taken

seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to Deputy Clerk and or Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Response

- Denham Parish Council will record any incidents brought to their attention and follow up concerns according to this policy and procedure. Denham Parish Council will follow their legal and statutory obligations, and the nature and alleged severity of the impact as defined by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
- Denham Parish Council will apply appropriate measures to staff, councillors or volunteers found in breach of policy. This is covered by the disciplinary policy.
- Denham Parish Council will report any issues of concern confidentially to Buckinghamshire Council. Early Resolution and Safeguarding (First Response and Short-Term Intervention) Team during office hours, or if outside these hours, the Emergency Duty Team.

Early Resolution and Safeguarding (First Response and Short-Term Intervention) Team Telephone 0800 137 915 or

Email: ascfirstresponse@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Outside normal working hours, contact the Emergency Duty Team
Telephone 0800 999 7677

Email: ooheswt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Confidentiality

- It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need-to-know basis only and should be kept secure at all times.

Derek Wilson – Executive Clerk & RFO