



Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

All Councillors, staff and volunteers of Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard children and vulnerable adults who are involved with our group, attend our events or take part in our projects.

They should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person.

This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Principles

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism will not be permitted or tolerated.

No member of the Council, or other volunteers or staff will have unaccompanied access to children or vulnerable adults, when on Town Council business.

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.

All staff and volunteers need to be aware of this policy, child protection, and vulnerable adult issues, and will be encouraged to undertake training when it is available.

There will be a nominated and named Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult representative to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported.

The Councillors and staff will endeavour to keep Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council services safe for children and vulnerable adults. The Council recognises that a higher standard of safety is required where Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council services are accessed by small children, those who cannot understand safety instructions and disabled adults.

These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

Procedures

- All Councillors, volunteers and staff will be given information about Safeguarding training when available.
- An annual review of policies and or procedures. New council members, volunteers and staff must be given an induction to this policy and understand their responsibilities.
- A copy of the policy will be available to all Councillors, volunteers, staff and users of Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council services.
- Contractors, other organisations or volunteers engaged to carry out work on behalf of Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council must not be allowed unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. Appropriate supervision will be arranged if necessary.

Reporting Incidents

The nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Representative will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the Local Authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency. The representative may choose to have a confidential discussion with others in order to clear up any misunderstandings or to corroborate and support any suspicions before reporting a concern to the Local Authority.

The nominated person should:

- know who to contact at the Pembrokeshire County Council.
- know who to contact in Social Services for advice and referrals
- know about helplines and other sources of help for children and young people and vulnerable adults.
- ensure that there is an environment in which staff have the opportunity to raise any child protection or vulnerable adult protection concerns.

Further Support & Information

- Introduction to Safeguarding Awareness training available from PAVS Development Team development@pavs.org.uk
- Safe Network Standards www.safenet.org.uk
- WCVA Criminal Records Unit www.wcva-cru.org.uk

Safeguarding policy continuous improvement – next steps

- Appoint nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult representative.

Date adopted: 2nd July 2024

Date of review: June 2025