

WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION POLICY

WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO THE HEALTH, WELL BEING AND SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN, VULNERABLE ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WHO ARE EITHER RESIDENT IN OR VISITING THE VILLAGE.

None of the activities of the Parish Council involves any Councillor coming into contact with children, vulnerable adults or young people. However all councillors 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 people
- They follow the procedures following suspicion, disclosure or allegation of child abuse
- They recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed

In the event of their being approached by a member of the public, young person or child on any matter concerning those under 18 resident in or visiting the village a Code of Behaviour is detailed below and it is essential that councillors 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
- Do ensure more than one other adult is present at all times when dealing with a young person
- Do advise young people who they can talk to, if asked, about any concerns they may have
- Do make everyone aware of the Parish Council's child protection procedures, as outlined in this policy: young people, parents, other volunteers
- Do remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned

- Do take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer to the Parish Council's Child Protection Officer immediately
- Do Not trivialise any reports of abuse
- Do Not let allegations, suspicions or concerns about abuse go unreported
- Do Not just rely on your good name to protect you.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Woodchurch Parish Council provides a Play Area for young children and Community Exercise Equipment for those aged 12+.

All children and young people under 18 using the Play Area and Community Exercise Equipment remain the responsibility of their parents or guardians whilst using the facilities.

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

The Relevant Authority

Any member of the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk 01233 733994

email: judith.batt@btinternet.com

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MEMBER OF WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL IN THE EVENT OF A CONCERN BEING REPORTED TO THEM

Councillors or The Parish Clerk will report any issues to the relevant authority immediately