



# SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL

## POLICY ON: CHILD PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE PERSONS v2

### POLICY

Sompting Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

### Definitions

A child is under 18 years of age (The Children Act 1989).

A vulnerable adult is a person: “who is or may be in need of community care services by reason

of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself,

or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”. (1997 Consultation Paper ‘Who decides?’, issued by the Lord Chancellor’s Department)

The Parish Council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons in that:-

- All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly
- All staff, volunteers and elected Members of the Council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer who will refer the matter to Social Services at West Sussex County Council for formal investigation. **You must refer, you must not investigate**
- Ensuring that the Council practices safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children and vulnerable people.
- Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) checks will be carried out on the staff. In line with best practice, these checks will be repeated every four years.

- Councillors, volunteers and other members of staff will not be subject to DBS checks unless there is a change in the council duties which requires regular contact with children and vulnerable people.
- Sompting Parish Council has a 'duty of care' to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes including risk assessment and health and safety practices.
- No member of the Parish Council, staff, helpers or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children and vulnerable adults, unless appropriately vetted.
- All members of staff, helpers and volunteers will be made aware of this policy and the relevant procedures. Relevant training in this area will be provided.
- Hirers of our facilities are made aware of our Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult policy and where appropriate, at the time of their booking, will be asked to produce a copy of their child protection policy.
- Arrangements will be put into place to protect children and vulnerable adults who wish to attend Parish Council Meetings.