

Our commitment

In the interests of child protection and the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults, the Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

Our Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of the Parish Council and any volunteers should any child protection issue or any issues with vulnerable adults arise during their work. The statutory responsibility for safeguarding lies with Essex County Council to whom reports by Hadstock Parish Council will be sent.

The law

Section 11 of the **Children Act 2004**¹, places a duty to make "arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare" on a range of agencies, including Uttlesford District Council. Whilst Uttlesford District Council do not have a statutory responsibility for child protection (this is the responsibility of Essex County Council) they follow the guidance contained within [Southend, Essex & Thurrock \(SET\) Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures](#) and the [Southend, Essex & Thurrock \(SET\) Safeguarding Adults Guidelines](#).

The government created six key principles of safeguarding, which are the important elements of any good safeguarding policy in any organisation, business or even community. While the Care Act, and the principles, are primarily focused towards safeguarding adults, many of the themes are also appropriate when it comes to protecting children from abuse, neglect and harm as well.

The 6 principles within **The Care Act 2014**² are

- **empowerment,**
- **prevention,**
- **protection,**
- **proportionality,**
- **partnerships and**
- **accountability.**

Responsibilities & Procedures

The Clerk & Chairman have been designated as Safeguarding Officers and the responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that participants are appropriately briefed before any Parish Council organised event with children or vulnerable people;
- Ensuring that, whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of the risk they face;
- Ensuring that before any volunteers or paid members of staff are recruited to work with children and vulnerable persons they are interviewed and two references taken up;
- Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by the Council, or the Clerk after consultation with the Chairman, following a risk assessment.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

- All new Councillors are to be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and are required to acknowledge they will abide by it.
- Councillors will adhere to the 'List of Recommended Behaviour' namely:
 - ✚ A minimum of two adults present when supervising children.
 - ✚ Not to play physical contact games.
 - ✚ Adults to wear appropriate clothing at all times.
 - ✚ Ensure that accidents are recorded in an accident book.
 - ✚ Never do anything of a personal nature for a young person.
- Keep records in an incident book of any allegations a young person may make to any committee member or volunteer.
- If there is a child abuse incident it should be reported to a Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is referred to Essex County Council the statutory authority responsible and also referred to the Hadstock Parish Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.
- In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children or vulnerable adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy.

Hadstock Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect.

All members of Hadstock Parish Council should read the Safeguarding Policy.

Having read the Policy, they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored periodically by Hadstock Parish Council to judge its effectiveness and will be updated in accordance with changes in the law.

Policy adopted & effective from: 30 November 2023 23/11/13iii

Date for review: Two years from adoption or in the event of a change to legislation