

## Child Protection Policy

### 1. Purpose and Scope

To protect children and young people, where the Council has dealings with them, from harm. A primary example of this is with members of West Horsley Youth Council who work in conjunction with West Horsley Parish Council, and also certain events such as the Teddy Bears' Picnic and Christmas Lantern Parade.

### 2. Legal framework

This policy statement is made with regard to legislation, policy and guidance which seeks to protect children in England. It is drawn from guidance and the summary of the key legislation that is available from [NSPCC.org.uk/learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning). The Parish Council will comply with the Safeguarding policy and guidance determined by Surrey County Council reporting to its Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as needed.

### 3. Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside West Horsley Parish Council's organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents including the Code of Conduct. A specific safeguarding policy will be prepared to accompany this statement.

### 4. Safeguarding Officers

The safeguarding officers should be the Clerk and Chairman of the Council. Their role with specific reference to the West Horsley Youth Council is to:

- ensure there is sufficient supervision by the two designated Parish Councillors who are assisting the Youth Council;
- manage allegations or complaints made against Councillors;
- oversee the creation of a relevant Code of Conduct for the Youth Councillors; and
- seek permission of parents/ carer for the involvement of the young person on the Youth Council and for the use of photography/video in the events run by the Youth Council.

Their role is also to ensure appropriate risk assessments have been done for events involving children and young people with the same focus of attention as that pertinent for the Youth Council.

### 5. Values & Beliefs

#### We believe:

- Children should be heard and allowed to express their opinions within, and to the Council, without fear of abuse in any of its forms.
- We have a responsibility to allow young people to safely engage with Parish business and to create their own Code of Conduct.

- We have the same responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people when attending events put on by the Council for their enjoyment.

We recognise:

- The welfare of all children working with us is paramount in all our association with the Youth Council and in all the decisions we take in relation to the Youth Council.
- The importance of working in partnership with children and young people, their parents and legal guardians, to protect their welfare at all times.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening and respecting them;
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and lead Councillor for safeguarding;
- adopting child protection and best practice through our policies, procedures and Code of Conduct;
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures;
- ensuring that all parish Councillors and related personnel are aware of our safeguarding procedures and undergo specific training on child protection;
- applying the Parish Council's data protection procedure for all matters pertaining to the Youth Council;
- ensuring that Young Councillors know which Parish Councillor they can refer to if they have a problem of any kind related to Council work;
- ensuring that any venue in which the Youth Council works or operates from is compliant with the laws and regulatory guidance covering Health & Safety.

## **6. Contact Details**

The Parish Council will identify the following individuals and ensure that appropriate training is undertaken so that they may fulfil their roles and provide the relevant contact details.

- A. Nominated safeguarding officer (phone number and email address)
- B. Deputy safeguarding officer (phone number and email address)
- C. Independent person NOT a sitting Councillor

First adopted: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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