



## SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Shere 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.

#### 2. Definitions

- 2.1 **Children and Young People** – anyone under the age of 18  
**Vulnerable Adult** – anyone over 18 who is: in need of care or support or unable to protect themselves from exploitation or harm, including self-neglect  
**Employees Councillors and Volunteers** – anyone working for, or on behalf of Shere Parish Council, whether paid or voluntary

#### 3. Safeguarding

- 3.1 The council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons, in that:
- The welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount
  - All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse and neglect
  - All suspicions and allegations of abuse and neglect will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately using the Safeguarding Procedure (Appendix 1)
  - All staff, volunteers and elected members of the council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer
  - All staff, volunteers and elected members of the council are not to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred

#### 4. Duty of care

- 4.1 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out in accordance with the eligibility criteria in the Rehabilitations of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.
- 4.2 Shere Parish Council has a duty of care to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes including risk assessment and health & safety practices.
- 4.3 Shere Parish Council strongly opposes slavery and human trafficking and never knowingly conducts business with partners, contractors, supply chain or employees involved in such practice. Any supplier wishing to conduct business with the Council must fulfil any obligations placed upon them by The Modern Day Slavery Act 2015. We expect all Councillors and staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery

- 4.4 There is a duty to report incidents, allegations or suspicions of:
- Inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff, volunteer or councillor
  - Abuse or neglect occurring elsewhere e.g., in the home environment

These must be referred immediately to the Clerk and the Safeguarding Procedure (Appendix 1) adhered to. Should the Clerk be absent, or be involved in the allegation, the Chairman will take over this responsibility.

- 4.5 The incident will be referred by the Clerk/Chairman to Surrey County Council Safeguarding Hub - **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for investigation:**

Phone	0300 470 910 Monday to Friday 9-5pm (out of hours 01483-517898)
Email referral for a child	<a href="mailto:csmash@surreycc.gov.uk">csmash@surreycc.gov.uk</a>
Email referral for an adult	<a href="mailto:ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk">ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk</a>

**You must refer; you must not investigate**

**Adopted by Full Council: Adopted 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 & 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
To be reviewed: February 2024**