



Thurlaston Parish Council

Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy

All councillors and volunteers of Thurlaston Parish Council have a duty to SAFEGUARD vulnerable people with whom they may come into contact through the Council's activities.

What is Safeguarding?

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

For the Council, we understand it to mean protecting people, including children and at risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our Councillors and volunteers.

Child Protection:

Thurlaston Parish Council acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, language, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe environment.
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in any activity.

All councillors and volunteers will be made aware of this policy.

Statement of Purpose:

Thurlaston Parish Council is determined to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect children and young people from harm. Councillors and volunteers will ensure that:

- The welfare of the child remains paramount.
- All children regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, language, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background have the right to be protected from harm.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All Councillors and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns

Abuse:

Abuse is a broad term in the context of safeguarding children. There are many degrees of abuse and it can take many forms. Abuse can be classified under the following:

- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

More information and guidance can be obtained from the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board at <http://lrsb.org.uk>.

What should you do if a young person reports abuse or you suspect abuse?

Upon receiving the information, you should:

- React calmly.
- Reassure the child that they were right to tell and that they are not to blame and take what the child says seriously.
- Be careful not to be deemed as putting words into the child's mouth, the easiest way of doing this is by asking questions.
- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Inform the child/ young person what you will do next.
- Make a full and written record of what has been said as soon as possible and don't delay in passing on the information.

The report should include:

- The child's known details including name, date of birth, address and contact numbers.
- Whether or not the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else.
- The nature of the allegation, including dates, times, specific factors and any other relevant information.
- Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.

Reporting concerns:

It is not the Parish Council's responsibility to decide whether abuse has taken place. Councillors and volunteers do not need to know everything about the child or what is happening before making a referral.

The referral should be made to Leicestershire Children's Services:

0116 3050005 (24 hour phone line)

If it is an emergency, you should call the Police on 999.

Policy adopted: