

NETTLEDEN WITH POTTEN END PARISH COUNCIL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Statement

Nettleden with Potten End 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.

Policy Objective

To ensure where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable people. To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation.

To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints. As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children, it expects all children using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.

Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council should any child protection arise during their work.

Responsibilities & Procedures

A Child Protection Officer will be appointed from within the Council. This will normally be the Parish Clerk whose responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that before any Parish Council organised event with children or vulnerable persons, the Child Protection Officer brief participants appropriately.
- Ensuring that members are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties.
- Ensuring that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with child during the performance of their duties they are mindful of the risk they face.

Decisions on whether any person should be CRB checked will be made by the Council.

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 accidents are recorded in an accident book
- Never do anything of a personal nature to a young person

The Child Protection Officer will keep records in an incident book of any allegations a young person may make to any committee member or volunteer. Incident book to be presented to the Parish Council full meeting for inspection.

If a child abuse incident it should be reported to the Child Protection Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and also refer to the Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment.

Facilities offered by the Parish Council will be inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation.

In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Child Protection Policy.

Declaration

Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect. All members of Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council should read the Council's Child Protection 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.