

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Chalford Parish Council works to:

- Safeguard the welfare of the young people and vulnerable adults we work with by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.
- Support the creation of an environment where young people and vulnerable adults are listened to and are encouraged to talk about themselves, their lives, and any concerns they may have.

Chalford Parish Council will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involve residents where necessary.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and open communication.

Chalford Parish Council recognises that children, young people and vulnerable adults may suffer abuse in different ways:

- Physically – any purposeful acts of violence causing injury.
- Sexually – The exploitation of authority or power to involve a child in sexual gratification.
- Emotionally - Emotional ill-treatment or rejection affecting emotional or behavioural development.
- Neglect – Failure to provide a child with basic needs including access to adequate food, health, care, education.

Staff and volunteers will be on guard to spot the signs and symptoms of abuse that can include:

- Physical signs such as changes in appearance, injuries and marks, and
- Changes to a child's behaviour.

Chalford Parish Council will respond to suspicions or allegations of abuse by:

Following any low risk disclosure or initial concern of abuse:

- Staff/volunteers will offer support and guidance to the young person or vulnerable adult and ensure their current safety.

- Staff/volunteers will record incidents and make the council aware of any potential for concern.

Following any disclosure or concern for a young person or vulnerable adult in immediate danger staff/volunteers will contact:

- The children & families Front Door Service for advice from a social worker; Tel: 01452 426565
Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

Out of hours contact; Emergency Duty Care Team Tel: 01452 614758
- Or if appropriate staff will contact 999 emergency services for an immediate response.

Chalford Parish Council will maintain records and respect confidentiality:

Staff or volunteers will inform the Council of any issues for concern and pass them a written record of any incidents or disclosures, to be kept securely by the Clerk to the Council, unless due to the nature of the incident it is not appropriate to involve certain staff/volunteers or members of the Council.

Chalford Parish Council acknowledges that the welfare of the individual is paramount:

Privacy and confidentiality will be respected where possible but if doing this leaves a person at risk of harm then that person's safety will always come first.

This is a non-contractual procedure which will be reviewed from time to time.

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