



# **PORTREATH**

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Safeguarding Policy**

**Adopted 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

## **What is Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding is about protecting children, young people and adults from abuse and neglect. Everyone has a right to live their lives free from violence, fear and abuse and achieving this is not solely the responsibility of social workers, health professionals or the police; it is everybody's responsibility. We must ensure that we are doing all we can to protect the most vulnerable members of our society.

### **Introduction**

Portreath Parish Council makes positive contribution to a strong and safe community and recognises the right of every individual to stay safe.

Portreath Parish Council comes into contact with children and adults through the following activities:

- Council meetings
- Youth sessions
- Warm Welcome / Community catch up sessions
- Campaigns ran with school engagement
- Delivery of services such as litter picking, maintenance work and toilet cleaning
- General contact

This policy seeks to ensure that Portreath Parish Council undertakes its responsibility with regard to the protection of children and adults and will respond to concerns appropriately. The policy establishes the framework to support members of staff, councillors, contractors and volunteers in their practices and clarifies the Council's expectations.

Safeguarding is about embedding practices throughout the Council to ensure the protection of children and adults wherever possible. In contrast, child and adult protection is about responding to circumstances that arise.

Abuse is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation, and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority. This can be caused by those inflicting harm or those who fail to act to prevent harm. Abuse can take a number of forms including:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Bullying
- Neglect
- Financial (or material)

## **Definitions**

A child is under the age of 18.

An adult is a person aged 18 years or over. A vulnerable adult may, permanently or temporarily, be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm or being exploited. This may include an adult who:

- Is elderly or frail
- Has a mental illness including dementia
- Has a physical or sensory disability
- Has a learning disability
- Has a severe physical illness
- Is an alcohol and/or substance misuser
- Is homeless

## **Responsibilities**

Remain vigilant.

All employees, members, contractors, and volunteers have responsibility to follow the guidance laid out in this and related policies, and to pass on welfare concerns to the appropriate organisation or agency. They will also be expected to consider the environment that they are working in in relation to children, young people and vulnerable adults and will take appropriate precautions to safeguard themselves and those around them.

Portreath Parish Council will complete appropriate risk assessment for job roles, recruitment, and all Council activities; safeguarding will form part of the risk assessments.

Good practice recruitment processes will be considered and implemented to ensure safe recruitment.

Portreath Parish Council will review the roles across the organisation regularly, the review will include consideration on whether Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS checks) are necessary and which level of check should be completed. The Council will seek advice from the Disclosure and Barring Service or Cornwall Council's Safeguarding Hub if required. The Council will complete appropriate DBS checks as and when necessary,

Contractors – contractors will be regularly monitored; risk assessments will be completed, and any concerns or complaints raised will be promptly reported.

'If you see something, say something'.

## **Where to Report Concerns**

- The Multi Agency Referral Unit – 0300 1231 116 for help, advice, and guidance if you suspect a child is being abused or to make a referral.
- The Adult Safeguarding Triage Team on 01872 326433, if you are concerned about an adult.
- Adult Independence and Wellbeing Team 0300 1234 131 Option 3
- Safeguarding Office Hours – 0300 1234 131
- Safeguarding Out of Hours – 01208 251300
- Call 999 if someone is in immediate danger

Anyone can also make a referral about someone you think may be causing harm by calling the numbers above.

<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Minute Number</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Pg 2: Responsibilities</b> , added Cornwall Safeguarding Hub for advice in paragraph 5  <b>Pg 3:</b> Amended and added phone numbers for several services	
<b>12/05/2025</b>	<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Pg. 3:</b> Added Safeguarding Office Hours – 0300 1234 131	25127 12/05/25 L Jose