

BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Safeguarding Policy

Adopted: 8th September 2021

Last reviewed: March 2024

Next review: March 2026



Introduction

Boughton under Blean Parish council is committed to the health, wellbeing and safety of all children, young people under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults who are either resident in or visiting the parish. The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and all suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

The Parish Council does not supervise children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect as part of their function within the Parish. DBS checks are not required by them unless they are to have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Should DBS checks become necessary they will be undertaken in compliance with the Protection of Children Act 1999, The Children's Act 2004, Police Act 1997 Part V, Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 statutory guidance.

Boughton under Blean Parish Council provides play equipment and a football pitch at the Bull Lane recreation ground for public use.

All children and young people under 18 using these facilities remain the responsibility of their parents or guardians whilst using the facilities.

Policy Statement

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adults at risk of abuse or neglect will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. There is a named member of the Parish Council to whom your suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person is **Cllr Angela Rice**. This person has the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the Local Authority Child Protection agency. The Parish Council will endeavour to keep any premises owned by it safe for use by children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Hirers and non-hirers providing activity group events which take place on premises owned by the Parish Council, that involve children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect will need to comply with the requirements for safeguarding. It is the responsibility of the organisers of these groups to ensure that they comply and have all the appropriate policies and procedures in place. Each group should have its own safeguarding policy. Consent should be obtained for photography.

Guidelines for responding to abuse or suspicion of abuse

- Do treat any allegations extremely seriously and act at all times towards the person as if you believe what they are saying.
- Do tell the person they are right to tell you.
- Do reassure them that they are not to blame
- Do be honest about your own position, who you have to tell and why.
- Do tell the person what you are doing and when, and keep them up to date with what is happening.
- Do take further action – you may be the only person in a position to prevent future abuse – tell your nominated person immediately.
- Do write down everything said and what was done (see notes on recording). Do seek medical attention if necessary.
- Do inform parents/carers unless there is suspicion of their involvement.
- Don't make promises you can't keep.
- Don't interrogate the person – it is not your job to carry out an investigation – this will be up to the police and social services, who have experience in this.
- Don't cast doubt on what the person has told you, don't interrupt or change the subject.
- Don't say anything that makes the person feel responsible for the abuse.
- Don't Do Nothing.

Reporting Concerns Concerns should be reported to Kent County Council on 03000 41 11 11, or via email centralduty@kent.gov.uk. For adult's social services the number is 03000 416161.