

Stretton Parish Council

Safeguarding policy for children, young people and vulnerable adults. (2025)

Section 1 - Policy Statement

Everyone has a duty of care to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. The policy promotes good practice in safeguarding. Stretton Parish council will review this policy annually, or sooner in response to legislation or local authority guidance.

Definitions:

- **Children and Young People:**

Anyone under the age of 18 years.

- **Vulnerable Adults:**

Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves;
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation, or;
- May need community care services.

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of the Stretton Parish Council, whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity, for example contracted to do a piece of work.

Section 2

Promoting a safe environment

In order to assure a safe environment, the Stretton Parish Council will:

- Undertake regular safety assessments;
- Ensure that employees, councillors and leaders of activities in the Parish are aware of the safeguarding expectations;
- Any Members and volunteers who have regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults while carrying out

their duties, must undergo appropriate disclosure and barring services (DBS checks) before commencing of such duties;

- Publish and display on the Stretton Parish Council notice board the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help. A copy will also be made available on the Stretton Parish Council website.

Expectations of behaviour

Organisers of Parish events and volunteers should:

- Ensure that communications behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional;
- Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using the Parish facilities;
- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia and bullying. Also, report any instances of such behaviour to the Chair of the Stretton Parish Council, Parish Clerk or parents/ carers as appropriate.
- Take seriously any disclosures or signs of abuse and follow reporting Protocols in the LLRSCB guidance and referred to Rutland County Council local authority designated officer (LADO).

Section 3

Safe working practise

- Never leave children young people or vulnerable adults unattended with adults who have not been subject to disclosure and barring services check;
- Always plan activities to involve more than one person being present, or at least in sight or hearing of others. Alternatively record or inform others of their whereabouts and intended action. Where possible have male and female leaders working with a mixed group;
- Ensure registers are complete and attendees are marked in and signed out. (Under 8's must be collected by a parent or carer);
- Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without written permission from their parents or carers;
- Ensure everyone has knowledge of and access to a first aid kit and working telephone;

- Ensure everyone knows the fire drill, and muster points in the event of fire and the need for evacuation.
- When working outside ensure activities, breaks and clothing are all suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

Allegations against staff and volunteers

Stretton Parish Council should follow the procedures for managing allegations against staff and volunteers on the Rutland County Council website <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/local-authority-designated-officer-lado>. No attempt should be made to investigate or act before consulting with Rutland County Council local authority designated officer (LADO) contact details below:

LADO Office 01572 758454 or email lado@rutland.gov.uk

If there is any concern that a child could be at risk of immediate harm, do not wait for a response from the LADO, but contact the RCC Children's Duty Team on [01572 758 407](tel:01572758407) or the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer Rutland North, NR36 Beat Leicestershire Police – PC1049 Jake Spruce, email: jake.Spruce1@leics.police.uk

Whistle blowing

All Stretton Parish Councillors, staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues. Appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO or safeguarding team as to how to handle such allegations.

The Stretton Parish Council must not make a judgement on whether the allegations have merit for further investigation. This decision must be for the LADO team.

What should be a cause for concern

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction which significantly harms the physical and or emotional development of a child. Abuse falls into 5 main categories and can include child sexual exploitation

and female genital mutilation referred to as FGM. The categories are as follows:

1. Physical abuse
2. Emotional abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Neglect
5. Financial abuse/ manipulation

Stretton Parish Council is committed to taking its responsibilities seriously. We work with other agencies and Rutland County Council to ensure compliance with changing laws, new laws and guidelines in relation to safeguarding.

The Stretton Parish Council confirms this safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually, and when such legislative/best practices change.

Minute Reference:

Adopted on:

Chair: