



## Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council

### Policy for child protection and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults

#### 1. Policy statement

- 1.1. Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council is committed to maintaining the welfare of people whilst they are using its facilities described within this policy. The Council recognises its own responsibilities to take all reasonable steps to protect and safeguard children and to safeguard vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Council also expects its partner organisations, which manage or use village facilities, to recognise their own responsibilities, to comply with this policy and to ensure they have arrangements in place to protect and safeguard children and to safeguard vulnerable adults.

#### 2. Definitions and shared beliefs

##### 2.1. Children and young people

Anyone under 18 years of age.

##### 2.2. Child protection

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or at risk of suffering harm. Effective child protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should aim to proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced (See Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures).

##### 2.3. Shared beliefs

The needs of the child are paramount and should underpin all child protection work and resolve any conflict of interests. All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm and exploitation whatever their:

- Race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- Gender or sexuality
- Age
- Health or disability
- Location or placement
- Criminal behaviour (if any)
- Political or immigration status

(See Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures)

#### 3. Definitions and key concepts used in understanding adult abuse

Safeguarding vulnerable adults uses a number of terms or concepts. These include: vulnerability, significant harm and adult abuse, which are explained below.

##### 3.1. Vulnerability

The term vulnerable adult refers to any person aged 18 years or over who 'is or may be in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation'.

(Who Decides: Lord Chancellor's Department 1997)

### **3.2. Significant harm**

The term significant harm helps to determine how serious or extensive abuse must be to justify intervention, 'harm should be taken to include not only ill-treatment (including sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment that are not physical); the impairment of, or an avoidable deterioration in, physical or mental health; and the impairment of physical, emotional, social or behavioural development'.

(See Who Decides. Lord Chancellor's Department 1997).

### **3.3. Adult abuse**

'Abuse is a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons'. 'Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or failure to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.' 'Physical, sexual, financial, emotional, discriminatory or psychological violation or neglect of a person unable to protect him/herself to prevent abuse from happening, or to remove him/herself from abuse or potential abuse by others'.

(See No secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse. Home Office and Department of Health 2000).

## **4. Context**

### **4.1. Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council has no direct involvement with the running of any premises in the parish. However, it has the responsibility for the following facilities:**

- The Council oversees the use and governance of the Court Meadow playing field; its recreational areas and the Five Ashes children's play area.
- The play areas and the skate park are open to all members of the public. The Council has no direct contact with any children or young people using these facilities.
- The playing field is available and can be hired by schools, organisations and residents. The Council has no direct contact with any children or young people using these facilities. Hirers are responsible for the safeguarding of any children or vulnerable adults during their events and for all risk assessment required.
- The football pitch is available for use by clubs for adults and juniors that are not under the direct jurisdiction of the Council.
- The Memorial Hall has a Management Committee that is responsible for the day to day running of the hall under the terms of its lease and its long-term viability.

## **5. Safe working practice**

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, the Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and do regular safety assessments
- Ensure that employees, councillors and any leaders engaged for Council led activities are aware of the safeguarding expectations
- Ensure that any leader engaged for Council led activities includes the requirement that they are safe to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. For example, those adults who have regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties should undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

Users of Parish Facilities must follow the safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults policy and procedures at all times. For example they should:

- Never leave children, young people or vulnerable adults unattended with adults who have not been subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- 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/carer).
- Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without written permission from parents/ carers.
- Ensure they have access to a first aid kit and telephone and know fire procedures.
- Ensure that where a child, young person or vulnerable adult needs assistance with toilet trips and when first aid is required, that this is carried out in pairs or in the latter case, that it is carried out where they can be seen.
- When working outside, ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

**5.1.** In developing this policy, Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council has drawn upon the pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures and the pan-Sussex Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, which are based on, and comply with, all contemporary legislative and policy frameworks and are regularly updated. They provide guidance for anyone who has a concern and seeks advice or wishes to raise a concern with the appropriate authority. Documents can be found at:  
<https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/> (Children)  
<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/worried/sab/> (Adults)

**5.2.** Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council has no specific person, either Councillors or staff members involved in the care of children or adults at the facilities listed above, but will ensure that, should a concern arise, the correct procedures related to this policy are followed. The Chairman of the Council and the Clerk are the Council's nominated representatives for child protection and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. The nominated representatives can be contacted via the Clerk:  
Mrs J Todd, Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield TN20 6AL  
Telephone: 01435 873784 e-mail: [clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](mailto:clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk)

**5.3.** If concerns are raised with the Council's nominated representatives a 'record of concern' will be initiated. This will be kept in a confidential file and only shared with other individuals and agencies in line with the information sharing protocols set out in the pan-Sussex child and adult procedures. However, the Council abides by the principle that the protection of a child or vulnerable adult is always paramount.

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