



## LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY

#### 1.0 Policy Statement

Safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Council recognises its responsibility to safeguard children, young people, and adults with care and support needs when they come into contact with the Council or services it provides.

#### 1.1 Who is this policy for?

**This policy applies to all members of staff and Parish Councillors as well as any volunteers or anyone working on behalf of, delivering a service for, or representing the Council.**

#### 1.2 What does this policy cover?

***It is not your responsibility to investigate concerns or decide if abuse has taken place. But it is your duty to report any concerns to an appropriate professional.***

This policy tells you:

- What safeguarding means and how to spot the signs
- How to respond if you suspect or are told about abuse or risk to a person
- Managing allegations against staff members, Councillors, volunteers or contractors

#### 2.0 Definitions

- A child or young person is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday
- An adult in need of safeguarding is someone who is aged 18 years or over **and** has needs for care and support, for example due to age, illness or disability **and** is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect as a result of those needs

#### 2.1 Types of Abuse

There are a number of broad types of abuse affecting children, young people and adults.

These include (but are not limited to):

- Physical abuse
- Emotional and Psychological abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual Abuse

- Financial or material abuse
- Exploitation/ Modern Slavery
- Discriminatory Abuse
- Institutional/organisational abuse
- Self-Neglect
- Domestic Abuse

## 2.2 Signs and Indicators of Abuse

There are many signs and indicators that abuse of children or adults may be taking place. Examples include:

- Unexplained injuries or bruises, wounds, lacerations, burns
- Unkempt or dirty appearance
- Depression, anxiety or aggression, low self-esteem
- Missed appointments
- Obsessive behaviours
- Substance abuse (alcohol or drugs)
- Self-harm and thoughts of suicide
- Unexplained financial problems, unpaid bills, misuse of money by others

## 2.3 Concern for Welfare

The term **safeguarding** directly relates to a situation where abuse is taking place by a third party. Staff may, however, be concerned about the welfare of an adult where there is no abuse, e.g. if an adult is living in surroundings that are unsuitable or unsafe, or if there are concerns around substance misuse, self-neglect, self-harming or poor mental health.

In these cases, concerns should still be reported to the appropriate agency as a concern for welfare or self-neglect.

It is important to note that **you should always call 999 if you believe someone's life is at risk** - for example they have seriously injured themselves or taken an overdose. You should also call 999 if you do not feel you can keep someone else safe.

## 3.0 Allegations against a staff member or Councillor

Any allegation against a member of staff should be addressed via the Parish Council Complaints procedures. An allegation made against a Councillor needs to be reported to the Monitoring Officer at Babergh District Council.

**Review Date: February 2028**

### Document control

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