

# **Monk Hesleden Parish Council**

## **Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy**

Reviewed & Approved 22nd January 2018

## **Our safeguarding policy**

This policy applies to all Council employees, Councillors, volunteers and sessional workers or anyone working on behalf of Monk Hesleden Parish Council.

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children and young people who receive Monk Hesleden Parish Council's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- to provide staff and volunteers with overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection;

Monk Hesleden Parish Council believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

## **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Right of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Education needs and disability (SEND) code of practice
- Information sharing: HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguarding children: a guide to inter-agency working: HM Government 2015

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures on:

- Recruitment and training
- Health and Safety
- Lone working policy and procedure

## **We recognise that**

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

## **We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Designation Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people
- adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made where appropriate
- recording and storing information professionally and securely
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with law and regulatory guidance

## **Contact details**

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Lynda Wardle

Tel: 07949 151792

E-mail: [clerk@monkhesleden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@monkhesleden-pc.gov.uk)

NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000

CEOP

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

Childline

0800 1111

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was approved on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

Signed:

*G M Crute*

Chairman  
Monk Hesleden Parish Council