

Safeguarding Policy

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL

This is a policy/procedure document of Saltash Town Council to be followed by both Council Members and Employees.

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Saltash Town Council

Safeguarding Policy

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Introduction

Saltash Town Council (STC) recognises that safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is a collective responsibility. The purpose of this policy is to make sure that all Members, employees, volunteers and contractors are aware of what is required in relation to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy will also help maintain a safe and positive environment for users of Saltash Town Council services.

Policy Application

This policy applies to:

- all employees of STC including temporary and agency staff,
- all Council elected Members,
- all organisations with a working relationship with STC including external suppliers,
- work experience volunteers working with STC,
- volunteers working with STC.

NOTE: It is not the role of Saltash Town Council to investigate allegations of abuse. However, all Members, employees, volunteers and contractors working in partnership with Saltash Town Council have a responsibility to take action when they suspect or recognise that a child or vulnerable adult may be a victim or at risk of significant harm or abuse.

Policy Statement

Saltash Town Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults that use its services and will promote a safeguarding culture and environment.

- We will endeavour to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from abuse.
- Suspicion of abuse will be responded to promptly and appropriately.
- We will always act in the best interests of the child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- We will proactively seek to promote the welfare and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults living in the local community.
- We will endeavour to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children, young people and vulnerable adults through, as appropriate, the recruitment and selection policy and by reminding hirers of their safeguarding responsibilities.
- We will take any concern made by a member, employee, volunteer or contracted service provider or child / vulnerable adult seriously and treat it with sensitivity.

Legal framework

This policy is drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults in England.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on a range of organisations to ensure their functions and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Care Act 2014 sets out statutory duties for safeguarding adults.

Definitions of Abuse

- **Abuse** covers any form of physical, emotional, mental and sexual abuse including bullying, including lack of care that leads to injury or harm. For vulnerable adults abuse may also be financial.
- **Neglect** is where people fail to meet a child's or vulnerable person's basic physical / psychological needs and is likely to result in the serious impairment of their health or development, e.g. failure to ensure that a child is protected from unnecessary risk of injury, or exposing them to undue cold.
- **Physical Abuse** is where physical pain or injury is caused, e.g. hitting, shaking, biting, etc.
- **Sexual Abuse** is where children or vulnerable adults knowingly or unknowingly take part in an activity that meets the sexual needs of the other person or persons involved. This includes inappropriate photography or videoing.
- **Emotional / Mental Abuse** is where there is persistent emotional ill treatment that causes severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's or vulnerable person's emotional status e.g. bullying (including cyber and text bullying), constant criticism and unrealistic pressure to perform.

Responsibilities

1. Safer Recruitment¹

Saltash Town Council demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at all stages of the recruitment and selection process.

Consistent, fair and thorough safer recruitment practices and procedures are in place that will ensure that those recruited are suitable to work within the Town Council's services.

¹ Recruitment and Selection Policy applies

2. Training and Awareness²

Everyone will be advised on the boundaries of appropriate behaviour as part of their employee and volunteer induction and informed of the relevant policies. More in depth mandatory training is undertaken on a regular basis by employees working in frontline areas delivering services that are used by members of the public.

Councillors will be provided with safeguarding awareness information as part of their induction.

Line managers are responsible for ensuring that safe and appropriate working practices are in operation. An ongoing culture of vigilance with a commitment to safeguarding with clear procedures and support for raising concerns should be in place.

3. Signposting and Prevention

We recognise that we can play a significant part in the prevention of harm to children, young person or vulnerable adult by providing them with effective lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection. Our organisation will support children, young people or adults by:

- Establishing and maintaining an ethos, understood by everyone, which enables children, young people or adults to feel secure and encourages them to talk, knowing that they will be listened to.
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment ensuring that all children, young people or adults know that there is someone in our organisation whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Posters signposting to support services will be displayed in the community hub.

4. Running safe activities and events

a. Risk evaluation and management

Activities and events should be planned in accordance with the requirements of the current Health and Safety Manual.

Regular checks should be made on equipment used by children, young people, adults, employees and volunteers in accordance with the requirements of the current Health and Safety Manual.

² Employee Handbook

b. Information and consent

Consent to activities should be obtained before participation from parents/carers/children/young people as appropriate.

Only necessary information should be collected and stored securely in accordance with the UKGDPR guidance provided.

Details of information that might be needed in an emergency should be kept in an accessible but secure place.

c. Use of photography and video

The use of photography and video at events run by Saltash Town Council will be controlled to prevent possible misuse. All employees will follow the Photography and Filming Guidance for Staff.

i. Events held at Saltash Library

The procedures in the Photography and Filming Statement at Saltash Library Hub (Appendix 1) should be followed.

ii. Events held at the Guildhall

Where events are held at the Guildhall, the Officer leading the event will follow the procedures laid out in Appendix 2.

iii. Photography/Filming to record STC work/activities

Where this is undertaken the guidance in Appendix 2 should be followed.

Allegations against employees, Council Members or volunteers

All employees, Members and volunteers should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

- All employees should be aware of the settings behaviour/discipline policy.
- The Town Council should follow the CISSCB procedures for managing allegations against employees/volunteers, a copy of which can be found on the CISSCB website - [Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership - Home page \(ciossafeguarding.org.uk\)](https://www.ciossafeguarding.org.uk/)

Where an employee, Member of the Council or volunteer becomes aware of an allegation against them or another employee, Member of the Council or volunteer this should immediately be reported to their Line Manager who will raise it with the Assistant Town Clerk. Volunteers should report to the senior member of staff in the department they help in and Members of the Council should report to the Assistant Town Clerk.

No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the CISSCB.

How to report a safeguarding concern

1. How to make a safeguarding children and young people alert/referral

To report an incidence of abuse or neglect, please contact the Multi Agency Referral Unit on: 0300 123 1116.

Outside of normal working hours there is an out of hours service available to ensure that urgent situations are responded to appropriately. The out of hours service runs from Monday to Thursday 5:15pm and 4:45pm on Fridays until 8:45am weekdays and for 24 hours on Saturdays and Sundays and can be contacted by phoning 0300 1234 100.

2. How to make a safeguarding adults alert/referral

In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly a safeguarding adult's referral is called a safeguarding adults alert. To make a safeguarding adults alert in Cornwall you need to contact the Access Team within Education, Health and Social Care on 0300 1234 131.

Your call will be put through to the Access Team. They will listen to what you have to say and will ask you questions so they fully understand the concerns you are raising.

When the offices are closed you can call 01208 251 300 for emergencies only.

Safeguarding Lead

The nominated child protection/safeguarding lead is the Assistant Town Clerk

In the absence of the Assistant Town Clerk the contact is the Town Clerk.

Appendix 1- Photography and/or Filming by Saltash Town Council (not including Saltash Library Hub)

Photography and/or Filming by Saltash Town Council (not including Saltash Library Hub)

- **Events in the Guildhall – public attending**
- **Events in the Community – public attending**

Clear signage should always be in place where photography or filming will take place at STC events where members of the public will attend. This is even more important where children, young people and/or vulnerable adults may attend.

No photography or filming should be recorded on personal devices.

The procedures outlined in Appendix 1 should be followed, adapting as required to meet the requirements of the event.

The guidance provided for staff³ should be read and adhered to with further advice sought from the Senior Policy and Data Compliance Monitoring Officer where required as a UKGDPR/Data Protection issue.

Where there is a potential safeguarding issue, advice should be sought from the relevant Line Manager in the first instance, referring to the Assistant Town Clerk as required.

Photography/Filming to record STC work/activities

Any photographs/videos that are to be taken as records of work for publication on the Town Council website and social media sites should be reviewed to ensure no identifiable individuals are included without permission. (This includes images of members of staff.)

The guidance provided for staff⁴ should be read and adhered to with further advice sought from the Senior Policy and Data Compliance Monitoring Officer where required as a UKGDPR/Data Protection issue.

³ Filming and Photography on STC sites – Guidance for staff (internal document)

⁴ Filming and Photography on STC sites – Guidance for staff (internal document)

Appendix 2 - Photography and Filming at Saltash Library Hub

Photography and Filming at Saltash Library Hub*

*This document should be read alongside the STC Safeguarding Policy and applies to all staff, volunteers and other adults associated with Saltash Library Hub.

Saltash Library Hub (as part of Saltash Town Council) works with children and families as part of its activities in the community.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Protect children and young people who take part in Saltash Library Hub's services;
- Set out the principles that guide our approach to photographs/videos being taken of children and young people during our events and activities;
- To ensure that we operate in line with our values and within the law when creating, using and sharing images of children and young people.

We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to take, share and use images of children safely.

We recognise that:

- Sharing photographs and films of our activities can help us celebrate the successes and achievements of our children and young people, provide a record of our activities and raise awareness of our organisation;
- The welfare of the children and young people taking part in our activities is paramount;
- Children, their parents and carers have a right to decide whether their images are taken and how these may be used;
- Consent to take images of children is only meaningful when children, their parents and carers understand how the images will be used and stored, and are fully aware of the potential risks associated with the use and distribution of these images;
- There are potential risks associated with sharing images of children online.

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

- Always asking for written consent from a child and their parents or carers before taking and using a child's image;
- Always explaining what images will be used for, how they will be stored and what potential risks are associated with sharing images of children;
- Only using the first names of children if we need to identify them;

- Never publishing personal information about individual children and disguising any identifying information (for example the name of their school or a school uniform with a logo);
- Making sure children, their parents and carers understand how images of children will be securely stored and for how long (including how we will control access to the images and their associated information);
- Reducing the risk of images being copied and used inappropriately by only using images of children in appropriate clothing, including safety wear if necessary;
- Using images that positively reflect young people's involvement in the activity.

We will also develop a procedure for reporting the abuse or misuse of images as part of our safeguarding procedures. We will ensure everyone involved in our organisation knows the procedures to follow to keep children safe.

Photography and/or filming for Saltash Library Hub's use

Children, young people, parents and carers must be made aware that photography and filming is taking place and give written consent.

If we hire a photographer for one of our events, we will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Providing the photographer with a clear brief about appropriate content and behaviour;
- Ensuring the photographer wears identification at all times;
- Informing children, their parents and carers that a photographer will be at the event and ensuring they give written consent to images which feature their children being taken and shared;
- Not allowing the photographer to have unsupervised access to the children;
- Not allowing the photographer to carry out sessions outside the event or at a child's home;
- Reporting concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography following our safeguarding procedures.

Photography and/or filming for wider use

If people such as local journalists, professional photographers (not hired by Saltash Town Council) or students wish to record one of our events and share the images professionally or in the wider world, they should seek written permission from the Community Hub Team Leader in advance.

They should provide:

- The name and address of the person using the camera;

- The names of the children they wish to take images of (where possible);
- The reason for taking the images/what the images will be used for;
- A signed declaration that the information provided is valid and that the images will only be used for the reasons given.

The Community Hub Team Leader will verify these details and decide whether to grant permission for photographs/films to be taken. We will seek consent from the children who are the intended subjects and their parents and inform the photographer of anyone who does not give their consent.

At the event there will be a prominent notice informing children, parents and carers that an external photographer is present and ensure they are easily identifiable, for example by issuing them with a coloured identification badge.

If Saltash Library Hub is concerned that someone unknown to us is using their sessions for photography or filming purposes, we will ask them to leave and (depending on the nature of the concerns) follow our safeguarding procedures.

Storing images

We will store images of children securely, in accordance with our safeguarding policy and data protection law.