



Cornworthy Parish Council

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Cornworthy Parish Council recognises that it is the duty of everyone to protect children and vulnerable adults. Cornworthy Parish Council does not directly organise any activities for children, young people, or vulnerable adults, and has no direct contact with them through staff or Cornworthy Parish Council members. However, Cornworthy Parish Council does work with other community groups that do have such contact and the Council recognises that it has a duty of care for children, young people, and vulnerable adults when working with other community groups organising events or activities in part or wholly in the name of CPC. This is achieved by ensuring that the organisers of events or activities in part or wholly in the name of CPC are aware of their safeguarding requirements and good practice and by maintaining a general overview.

Definitions:

Child or Young Person: anyone under the age of 18.

Vulnerable Adult: Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves.
- Unable to protect themselves from harm.
- May need community care services.

Who Does This Policy Apply to?

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Cornworthy Parish Council, whether in a paid, voluntary, or commissioned capacity.

Promoting a Safe Environment.

To provide a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults Cornworthy Parish Council will ensure:

- That those working for the council in any capacity are aware of safeguarding policies, culture, and expectations.
- No adult should be alone with a child or vulnerable adult unless the adult has been subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check.
- That contact details are available of statutory agencies for advice and referral as follows:
- Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) for Children and Young People
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/child-protection/>
- 0345 155 1071 emailing mashsecure@devon.gov.uk and giving as much information as you can.
- <https://www.devonsafeguardingadultspartnership.org.uk/>
- <https://www.devonsafeguardingadultspartnership.org.uk/reporting-a-concern/>

- Councillors have a duty to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults, but do not have a duty of investigation. Any concerns should be raised with the appropriate referral unit for advice/investigation.

Maintaining the Safety of Images of Children.

Cornworthy Parish Council will ensure that any images of children that are published by the Council, either on its website or in any literature which is published by them, are published with the consent of parents or legal guardians.

Cornworthy Parish Council will ensure that children are not identified by name on its website.

Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers.

Councillors or volunteers should avoid placing themselves in a position where they could be vulnerable to accusations of inappropriate or abusive behaviour. This can be achieved by ensuring that there is always another adult present.

Cornworthy Parish Council should follow guidance published by Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) <https://www.devonscp.org.uk/>

No action should be undertaken by the Council if concerns are raised before consulting the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Any concern that meets the criteria above should be referred **within one working day** of the concern coming to your attention. You can do this by [completing the notification form](#). or leave a message on the telephone line [01392 384964](tel:01392384964) or email childsc.localauthoritydesignatedofficersecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk for a LADO contact form.

Whistle blowing.

Cornworthy Parish Council understands that children, young people and vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns on their own behalf. Parish Council members therefore recognise that they have a duty to seek advice from the sources mentioned above if they have any concerns about any vulnerable individual's safety or wellbeing.

Identifying Causes for Concern.

Any behaviour, action or inaction towards a child, young person or vulnerable adult which affects their physical, emotional, or psychological safety, wellbeing or development is considered abusive.

Abusers may be parents, carers, other family members, professionals or peers, and abuse can occur in any community or setting.

There are four recognised categories of abuse:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect.

There is often more than one type of abuse occurring at the same time.

Councillors and volunteers also need to be aware that there are other threats to children, including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Ideally training in safeguarding should be undertaken but further training and information can be accessed from the following:

- <https://www.devonscp.org.uk/>
- <https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>
- <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/child-protection/>
- <https://www.devon.gov.uk/adult-social-care/safeguarding/>