



FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL **CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council is a legal body governed by statute. It has a responsibility to ensure that all steps are taken to provide protection for children (those under the age of 18) and those beyond this age that may be considered as vulnerable because of mental or physical incapacity.

In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children or vulnerable adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Protection Policy.

2. POLICY STATEMENT:

This Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council.

We will endeavour to achieve this by:

- That staff are DBS checked as appropriate.
- Ensuring that staff are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties,
- Ensuring that whilst Councillors are unlikely to be involved with children and adults during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of the risk they face.
- Sharing information about child and adult protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.

Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by the Parish Council, or the Executive Officer in consultation with the Chairman and/or a Councillor.

3. POLICY OBJECTIVE:

- To ensure that where possible all facilities offered by the Parish Council, principally through recreation and sport, are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable people.
- To request that users of sports facilities through Clubs are protected by ensuring those Clubs have and provide to the Parish Council with their Child and/or Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy, if requested.

- To promote the general welfare, health and development of children and vulnerable adults, by being aware of protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a caring organisation.
- Facilities such as playgrounds, aerial runway, adult equipment etc will be inspected on a regular basis (currently monthly) by the Executive Officer or nominated Councillor and annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation. Any recommendations will be reported to Council and acted upon as directed.
- If there is a child or vulnerable adult abuse incident it should be reported to the Executive Officer or Chairman of the Parish Council who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled and also referred to the Parish Council for further and future risk assessment.
- **This Policy will be reviewed annually.**

4. DECLARATION:

Four Marks Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

All councillors, employees or volunteers of the Council shall read this Policy and shall be proactive in providing a safer environment for children and vulnerable people who use Parish Council facilities.

The Council does not currently closely monitor play and recreation areas and this fact shall be considered when determining proposals for such facilities.

Any breaches in Policy will be determined by disciplinary procedures as felt appropriate.