



## Lancing Parish Council

### Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy

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Please note that alternative formats of this document may be available upon request.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Lancing Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of vulnerable people that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.
- 1.2 For the purposes of this policy, vulnerable people are those who are deemed unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect, due to their circumstances. A vulnerable person is either a child or an adult at risk. Anybody under the age of 18 is automatically classed as a vulnerable person because of their age. People who are aged 18 or over may be considered an 'adult at risk' if they are in need of care and support services, (regardless of whether or not they are receiving them), and if, because of those needs, they are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.

## **2.0 SAFEGUARDING**

The Council will endeavour to safeguard children and adults at risk, in that:

- a) The welfare of the vulnerable person is paramount;
- b) All vulnerable people have the right to protection from abuse;
- c) All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
- d) All staff, volunteers and elected members of the Council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer; and
- e) All staff, volunteers and elected members of the Council are not to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred.

## **3.0 DUTY OF CARE**

- 3.1 Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out in accordance with the eligibility criteria in the Rehabilitations of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.
- 2.2 Lancing Parish Council has a duty of care to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes including risk assessment and health and safety practices.
- 2.3 The role of Members and staff is to refer, not investigate.
- 2.4 If a serious incident happens on Parish Council premises or whilst a Member/officer is partaking in Parish Council duties, the Police should be contacted in the first instance.
- 2.5 Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff or Councillor must be referred immediately to the Clerk who will refer the matter to the appropriate authorities (such as Sussex Police or Social Services at West Sussex County Council) for investigation.

## **Annex 1 – Social Services at West Sussex County Council**

### **West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board**

Telephone: 0330 222 7799

Address: Third Floor, East Wing, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ

Email: [lscb@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:lscb@westsussex.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/>

*The West Sussex Children’s Safeguarding Board is a partnership of the various organisations and agencies that work across West Sussex in order to keep children safe and promote their well-being. Membership of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board includes representatives from agencies such as West Sussex County Council, Sussex Police, NHS Sussex, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, Surrey and Sussex Probation, Districts and Boroughs, Educational settings and voluntary and community groups.*

### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

Telephone: 01403 229 900

Out of Hours: 0330 222 6664

Address: Fourth Floor, County Hall North, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1XH

Email: [mash@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:mash@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/2016/04/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash/>

*From April 2017, the workforce of the Children’s Access Point and the Early Help Resource Centre were combined. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will be single point of contact for all safeguarding concerns regarding children and young people in West Sussex which includes front door access for Early Help.*

### **West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board**

Telephone: 01243 642121

Address: Centenary House, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 2QB

Email: [safeguardingadultsboard@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingadultsboard@westsussex.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.westsussexsab.org.uk>

*West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multiagency partnership that has representation from organisations that support adults who have care or support needs who contribute to the development and delivery of the Board Strategic Plan. West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board lead on and co-ordinate adults safeguarding across West Sussex, to ensure greater consistency and effectiveness of implementation of safeguarding of its members and partner agencies.*

### **West Sussex County Council Adults’ CarePoint,**

Telephone: 01243 642121

Address: Second Floor, The Grange, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RG

Email: [socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk)

Website: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/social-care-support/adults/contact-adults-carepoint/>

*Social care support or advice.*

## **Annex 2 – definitions of abuse and neglect**

### **Physical**

Physical abuse is itself a wide-ranging term, which can include assault of another person, self-harm, inappropriate restraint, misuse of medication, inappropriate sanctions and female genital mutilation (FGM). Circumstances in which a vulnerable person is deprived of their human rights and/or their liberty, and where Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are not in place, would also be classed as physical abuse.

### **Sexual**

Engaging in or making someone witness sexual activity without consent. Sexual abuse can also include sexual exploitation, in which a person is sexually exploited for money, power or status.

### **Psychological**

This is sometimes referred to as emotional abuse; examples include non-physical domestic abuse, bullying and cyber bullying.

### **Neglect and acts of omission**

This is the ongoing failure to meet a person's basic needs, e.g. food and protection from hazards. It can also include ignoring someone's care needs or failing to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services.

### **Financial**

Examples of financial abuse include: theft, fraud, misuse of possessions, pensions or benefits, and coercion (e.g. in relation to wills/inheritance).

### **Discrimination**

Misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals. Discrimination becomes a safeguarding matter when the victim is a vulnerable person.

### **Institutional**

Sometimes referred to as organisational abuse, this describes regime-wide abuse, neglect or mistreatment within a setting or service.