

# **WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

We all have a role to play in protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm. Withycombe Parish Council is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults whom we come into contact with through the services we provide and the use of our facilities.

## **Definitions**

Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18 years.

Vulnerable adult: anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation; or may need community care services.

## **To whom this policy applies**

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

## **Promoting a safe environment**

To promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Withycombe Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and/or activity areas. To achieve this Withycombe Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
- Ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
- Make available on public noticeboards and to employees and councillors relevant contact details.

Allegations against staff and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the authorities as detailed below as soon as possible.

Somerset County Council is the lead organisation for the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults in the West Somerset area. If you are worried about a child, a young person under 18 or a vulnerable adult you should contact Somerset County Council

0300 123 2224 during office hours

0300 123 23 27 out of office hours

Email – [adults@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:adults@somerset.gov.uk)

If you or the person you are concerned about is in immediate danger you should ring the emergency services on 999.

Anything you notice can help a child or adult at risk. You don't have to be certain about your suspicions. If you are concerned that a child or adult is being abused or their safety is at risk please speak to someone.

For more information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are available on the Somerset County Council website [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk) or Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership website.

[SSCP – Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(safeguardingsomerset.org.uk\)](http://safeguardingsomerset.org.uk)

Adopted: 27 June 2022