



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Adopted - May 2026

1. Introduction

Good Easter Parish Council is committed to protecting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This policy explains how the Council ensures that all services, facilities, and activities are safe and inclusive.

This policy reflects statutory responsibilities under:

- Children Act 2004
- Care Act 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Relevant guidance from Essex County Council Safeguarding Partnerships

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Councillors
- Employees (including the Clerk)
- Volunteers
- Contractors providing services for the Council

It covers all Council activities, events, facilities, and decisions.

3. Policy Statement

The Council will:

- Respect the rights, wishes, and privacy of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
- Prevent abuse by promoting good practice, safe environments, and avoiding situations where harm could occur.
- Take all concerns, incidents, or allegations seriously and respond promptly.

- Require contractors and service providers to have appropriate safeguarding policies and, where relevant, DBS checks.
 - Provide safeguarding training appropriate to each person's role.
 - Ensure no one is harassed or penalised for raising a safeguarding concern.
 - Review this policy annually to keep it current and effective.
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4. Definitions

- **Abuse:** Physical, sexual, emotional, financial, neglect, or discriminatory harm.
 - **Domestic abuse:** Controlling, coercive, or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between adults in intimate or family relationships.
 - **Children and young people:** Under 18s.
 - **Vulnerable adult:** Anyone 18+ who cannot protect themselves against harm due to age, illness, disability, or other factors.
 - **Safeguarding:** Protecting welfare, preventing abuse, and creating safe environments.
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5. Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):

- The Clerk, Miss Lucy White, is the DSO.
- Responsible for receiving, recording, and reporting safeguarding concerns.

Councillors and Volunteers:

- Must follow this policy and report concerns to the DSO.
- Participate in safeguarding training appropriate to their role.

Contractors:

- Must confirm they have safeguarding measures in place, including DBS checks where relevant.
 - Agree to follow Council safeguarding principles while providing services.
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6. Reporting Concerns

- Concerns, incidents, or allegations should be reported promptly to the DSO.
- If the DSO is unavailable or the concern involves the DSO:
 - **Essex Safeguarding Children Board:** 0345 603 7627
 - **Essex Safeguarding Adults Board:** 0333 013 1019
- Reports should include the reporter's details, but anonymous reports will be considered carefully.

- All records are confidential, stored securely, and retained only as necessary.
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7. Training

- Councillors, employees, and volunteers will receive safeguarding training appropriate to their role.
- Training will be reviewed regularly and updated as needed.