



AINTREE VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL

CHILD & VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION **&** **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

20th August 2018

Minutes 6806

Aintree Village Parish Council

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection and Safeguarding Policy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Aintree Village Parish Council fully accepts its role and responsibility in safeguarding children and vulnerable people. This policy applies to all staff, Councillors, volunteers and contractors. This policy is vital to the Council's role as an owner, provider and operator of children's play areas, football pitches, tennis courts, and any facility the council provides. However, any agency working with children and vulnerable people has full responsibility to ensure the users are safeguarded.

2.0 Key Elements of Policy

2.1 Aintree Village Parish Council's primary aim is to ensure as far as possible that children and vulnerable people are safe and secure in any facility or environment it provides.

2.2 Aintree Village Parish Council shall ensure that anyone employed by the Council shall be appropriately checked for suitability when working with or around children and vulnerable people by ensuring that staff are DBS checked to a standard disclosure unless informed otherwise in which case an enhanced disclosure shall be applied for.

2.3 Aintree Village Parish Council shall ensure that all staff, Councillors, volunteers and contractors are aware of child protection and shall know the procedure to follow if there is a child protection issue.

2.4 Aintree Village Parish Council shall take advice and guidance from its designated Councillor for Child Protection, and/or Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Every Child Matters and any other relevant body or agency. (*See Appendix 3: Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy Useful Contacts.*)

2.5 Aintree Village Parish Council's Clerk has responsibility in ensuring that all staff, Councillors, volunteers and contractors are in receipt of this policy.

2.6 Aintree Village Parish Council understands and recognises four main types of abuse and shall ensure that all staff, Councillors, volunteers and contractors are aware of and alert to types and signs of abuse and the procedure in reporting any concerns. (*See Appendix 1: Signs and Symptoms of Child Abuse.*)

3. Responding to Suspected incidents of Child Abuse

3.1 Aintree Village Parish Council shall support in every way that it can children or young people who have been abused by informing the appropriate authority. If it is suspected that abuse or poor practice is taking place there is a clear obligation to report such matters to the proper authority, the decision for such action shall be taken by the Clerk (under delegated powers) following consultation with the

designated Councillor for Child Protection and the Chairman. The authority shall make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare (Children Act 1989 section 47(1)).

3.2 Aintree Village Parish Council shall do its best to ensure that any relevant bodies are notified of any child protection incidents and that good communication and links are made in order to safeguard children.

3.3 Aintree Village Parish Council shall record any concerns they have about a child immediately even if the concern needs no further action and the record must be kept in a secure and effective way.

4.0 Initial Actions

4.1 Any concerns will be brought to the attention of Mo Kundi, the Parish Clerk, who in consultation designated Councillor for Child Protection and the Chairman will report the concern to Sefton Council Children's Service department.

4.2 Those raising the concern must be made aware that the concern will be shared with appropriate people, but will be treated in confidence as far as possible.

4.3 Officers, employees and volunteers must not discuss the concern except with the designated officer and any agent of the organisation responsible for investigating the concern.

Appendix 1

Aintree Village Parish Council: Signs and Symptoms of Child Abuse 2010

1.0 Neglect

1.1 Neglect occurs when a parent fails to meet a child's essential needs for food, clothing, shelter or medical care, or when children are left without proper supervision which leaves them unsafe or unprotected.

Some indications are:-

- Consistently unkempt, dirty appearance
- Medical needs of child unmet
- Delay in the child's development without other clear cause
- Lack of responsiveness with peers or adults in everyday social situations
- Behaviour such as head banging or rocking
- Repeated failure by parents/carers to prevent injury
- Consistently inappropriately clothed for the weather
- Hazardous living conditions
- Failure to attend any sort of appointments
- Non-organic failure to thrive

2.0 Physical Abuse

2.1 Physical abuse occurs when parents or adults deliberately inflict injuries on a child, or do not protect the child from injury.

Some indications are:-

- Unexplained injuries - bruises, scars, bites or burns, particularly if they are recurrent injuries of varying ages and types
- Child shows fear about returning home
- Withdrawal from physical contact
- Bruising on very young babies

3.0 Emotional Abuse

3.1 Emotional abuse occurs when parents fail to show their children sufficient love or attention or when they threaten, taunt or belittle them, causing them to become nervous, withdrawn, aggressive, or disturbed in their behaviour.

Some indications are:-

- Very low self-esteem
- Lack of any sense of fun
- Excessively clingy or attention seeking behaviour
- Over reactions to mistakes or over anxious to please
- Substantial failure to reach potential in learning
- Self harming; compulsive rituals
- Unusual patterns of response to others showing emotion

4.0 Sexual Abuse

4.1 Sexual abuse occurs when an adult or older child involves a child in sexual activity to which the child does not or cannot consent, because of his or her age or understanding

Some indicators are:-

- Withdrawn, fearful or aggressive behaviour to other children or adults
- Poor concentration at school or learning problems which do not match intellectual ability
- Behaviour with sexual overtones inappropriate to age
- Complaints of genital itching or pain
- Unexplained abdominal
- Distrust of a familiar adult or anxiety about being left with a particular person, relative, babysitter or lodger
- Unexplained gifts or money
- Apparent secrecy
- Wetting day or night when previously dry and clean
- Severe sleep disturbances or nightmares
- Chronic illness, especially throat infections
- Venereal disease or other sexually transmitted diseases
- Marked reluctance to take part in physical activity or to change clothes for PE, for example
- Phobias or panic attacks
- Self-mutilation or attempted suicide
- Running away from home

Appendix 2

Code of Conduct when working with children

1. This code of conduct has been produced as a guide to any Aintree Village Parish Councillors and officers who come across children.
2. Avoid physical contact unless it is justified in the context of the activity, explained to the individual, and with their permission.
3. Physical restraint may be needed to manage certain situations, such as if a fight breaks out. Ensure the purpose of your actions is clear, and keep any physical intervention to the minimum required to prevent harm to any young people or others.
4. A distressed child may require physical contact, such as an arm round the shoulders, to comfort or reassure them. Try to ensure you are with, or in sight of, a colleague, and ensure the purpose of your actions is clear.
5. Conduct all dealings with children in a public environment in full view of others.
6. Do not place yourself in a situation where you may be open to suspicion or allegation, or where your actions may be misinterpreted.
7. Maintain a safe environment.
8. Avoid being alone with a child in any situation.
9. Avoid spending excessive time with a child or young person.
10. Avoid using inappropriate language in front of, about, or to a child.
11. Try not approach a child when a parent is present. If you have a concern about a child's behaviour take it up with the parent in a non-threatening way.
12. Try to use the disabled toilet when possible to avoid being in a toilet alone with a child.
13. Remember to keep calm when challenging a child's behaviour. Shouting or swearing is not a good idea and try to speak to the child in a way which you would be comfortable with someone speaking to your child.
14. Remember that children are not purposeful trying to aggravate you and generally see no wrong in what they're doing so try to explain why you are asking them to do something.
15. Never ask a child to enter the building with you.
16. If you have any concern with a child or a policy refer to the Aintree Village Parish Council's child protection policy and seek advice from the Parish Clerk or the designated Councillor for Child Protection.

Appendix 3:

Aintree Village Parish Council: Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Useful Contacts:-

1.0 Sefton Council

If you are worried that a child may be suffering significant harm, or if you are concerned that a child has suffered harm, neglect or abuse, please follow the advice below.

Members of the public can:-

- Call **0345 140 0845** between 8am and 6pm (minicom 0151 934 4657).
- Contact the emergency duty team on **0151 934 3555** for urgent advice outside of office hours (from 5.30pm Mon to Thurs, and 4pm Friday and weekends). If you think a child is in immediate danger call for police assistance.

Please provide as much information as possible in order for us to respond to your concerns.

We appreciate that making a referral to children's Social Care may be difficult for you. Please be reassured that your concerns will be recorded and any response carefully considered, and if you would prefer you can remain anonymous.

You can contact Sefton's **Community Adolescent Service (CAS)** if you are concerned about a young person (age 12-25 years) who is: being pushed to be in a gang; at risk of sexual exploitation; have problems with drugs and/or alcohol, have poor mental health, experience violence at home or have run away from their family.

CAS will deal with the issues of the young person and their family before they escalate. Family members, professionals or the young person in question can contact the service on **0345 140 0845**.

1.1 Sefton(LSCB) Local Safeguarding Children Board

If you are worried that a child may be suffering significant harm, or if you are concerned that a child has suffered harm, neglect or abuse, please follow the advice below.

Members of the public can:

- Call **0345 140 0845** between 8am and 6pm (minicom 0151 934 4657).
- Contact the emergency duty team on **0151 934 3555** for urgent advice outside of office hours (from 5.30pm Mon to Thurs, and 4pm Friday and

weekends). If you think a child is in immediate danger call for police assistance.

If you wish to make a referral visit **Sefton Council's website** "Report a child or young person at risk"

You can contact Sefton's **Community Adolescent Service (CAS)** if you are concerned about a young person (age 12-25 years) who is: being pushed to be in a gang; at risk of sexual exploitation; have problems with drugs and/or alcohol, have poor mental health, experience violence at home or have run away from their family.

CAS will deal with the issues of the young person and their family before they escalate. Family members, professionals or the young person in question can contact the service on **0345 140 0845**.

3.0 NSPCC

Help for adults concerned about a child – 0808 800 5000

Help for children and young people - call Childli