

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

As there needs to be a Safeguarding Policy in place to support some types of funding applications, the following policy was considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 16 March 2022 and is recommended to Full Council to adopt (draft minute 930 refers).

SAFEGUARDING (CHILD PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE PERSONS) POLICY

Introduction

Hexham Town Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

Safeguarding

The council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons, in that:

- The welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount.
- All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff, volunteers and elected members of the Council have a responsibility to report concerns to the Town Clerk.
- No staff, volunteers and elected members of the Council are to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred.

Duty of care

- Any member of staff or Councillor working alone with a vulnerable adult or children will be subject to a DBS check.
- Hexham Town Council has a 'duty of care' to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes including risk assessment and health & safety practices.
- Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff or Councillor, or concerns for the safety of a child or vulnerable person at a Town Council meeting or event must be referred immediately to the Town Clerk who will refer the matter to Onecall for investigation.
- A member of staff or Councillor who feels their concern for the welfare of a child or vulnerable person has not been sufficiently advanced has a duty of care to call Onecall themselves.
- Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by the Town Clerk will be referred immediately to the Chair of the Council for investigation.

You must refer, you must not investigate.

Onecall number: 01670 536 400

Email: onecall@northumberland.gov.uk

Policy adopted by Hexham Town Council on 11 April 2022, to be reviewed April 2023.