

## **HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL** **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### **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](mailto:onecall@northumberland.gov.uk)

Policy adopted by Hexham Town Council on 11 April 2022, reviewed October 2023, due for further review October 2024.