**East Chinnock Parish Council**

**Safeguarding Policy**

The Council’s only facility is The Glebe Field in Weston Street which is leased from the Bath and Wells Diocese. Various items of children’s play equipment are installed and these are maintained and inspected in accordance with the appropriate safety regulations. Plans are in place to add some adult gym equipment, more benches, raised planters and more play equipment to make the area a central feature of the village for all age groups.

The area is used by the Under 5’s Group which has a building next to the play area, for supervised play and occasionally for fundraising activities. This group has no connection with the Council as their building is owned by the local church. They do not pay to use the area and have their own insurance and policies.

The Council hold an annual event on the field. This usually takes the form of a music evening with a marquee erected for a band and a bar and BBQ area. Very occasionally a family fun day has been organised with children’s activities such as face painting, races etc. where children attend with their parents/carers. The field is currently never used for organised activities involving children or vulnerable adults without their parents/carers so the Council Safeguarding Policy has limited application.

**SECTION 1 - Policy Statement**

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using our Glebe Field.

The policy will be reviewed and updated as and when legislative/best practice changes take place or at least annually.

## 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 be in need of community care services.

## To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of the Council whether in a paid, voluntary, or commissioned capacity, for example contracted to do a piece of work.

It also applies to any individual hiring, leasing, or using the Glebe Field for the purpose of delivering any service to children, young people, or vulnerable adults.

**SECTION 2 - Promoting a safe environment**

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, the Council will:

* Provide a safe Play Area and do regular safety assessments.
* Ensure that employees, volunteers, and leaders of activities are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
* A copy of the Policy will on the website.

## Expectations of behaviour

All users of the Glebe Field, organisers of events and volunteers should:

* Ensure that communications, behaviour, and interaction is appropriate and professional.
* Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using the area.
* Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour to the Council or parents/carers, as appropriate.

## Hiring of the Glebe Field to groups for use with children, young people, or vulnerable adults

We will require the hirer to:

* Have public liability insurance.
* Have a suitable safeguarding policy and/or agree to work to the Council’s policy and relevant guidance.
* Ensure leaders make their members aware of the policy and ensure that it is followed whilst using the Glebe Field.
* Ensure leaders have valid enhanced DBS checks as appropriate and provide their own first aid kit
* Do risk assessments for individual activities.

 **SECTION 3 - Safe working practice**

 All users must follow the policy and procedures at all times. For example, they should:

* Never leave children, young people, or vulnerable adults unattended with adults who have not been subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
* Plan activities to involve more than one person being present or at least in sight or hearing of others. Alternatively, record, or inform others of their whereabouts and intended action.
* Where possible, have male and female leaders working with a mixed group.
* Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without written permission from their parents/carers.
* Ensure they have access to a first aid kit.
* Ensure activities, breaks and clothing are suitable for the weather conditions and that shelter is available where possible.

**SECTION 4 - Allegations against staff and volunteers**

The Council should follow the procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers as guided by SSCB/P website. No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). See contact details below.

LADO email sdinputters@somerset.gov.uk Somerset Direct – 0300 123 2224

## Whistleblowing

All councillors, staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO as to how to handle such allegations.

## What should be a cause for concern

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child. Abuse falls into the following main categories: Physical Abuse / Emotional Abuse / Sexual Abuse / Neglect

And Financial Abuse/Manipulation.

The Council are committed to ensuring the safety of all users of the Glebe Field and take our responsibilities seriously. We strive to ensure compliance with changing laws and guidelines in relation to safeguarding.

 August, 2021