



**SHERFIELD ON LODDON
PARISH COUNCIL**

**SAFEGUARDING
POLICY**

Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council believes that it is always unacceptable for any person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all by a commitment to practice which protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of all is paramount. Everyone regardless of gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, nationality, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion or age, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with all stakeholders is essential in promoting welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for all who receive Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council services, including employees.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect someone may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

This policy applies to all staff, Parish Councillors and members of the organising groups or users of community groups using the Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council facilities.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting safeguarding guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with all staff and facilities users
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Policy procedure:

Should an individual have a concern, they should report it to the Clerk of the Parish Council confidentially as soon as possible, and the Clerk would then refer it as soon as possible to either of

Hampshire County Council Children Services
(<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/child-protection>)

or

Hampshire County Council Adult Services
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/adultsocialcare/adulthealthandwellbeing/service731>

If the concern is considered as an emergency, then the individual should report it to the police via a 999 call prior to contacting the Clerk.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice yearly unless relevant statutes change at lesser intervals.