**ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

***Mrs. Kay Goodchild-Critchley, Clerk to the Council***

***Knoll Cottage, The Knoll, Alderton, IP12 3BS***

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**POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

Children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to participate, have fun and be safe in the services provided for them and the activities they choose, or their parents/carers choose for them.

Alderton Parish Council is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults and, where they may operate events themselves, will ensure that members involved are adequately checked. Alderton Parish Council adopts the following policy in respect of safeguarding.

**OUR POLICY**

We will endeavour to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from abuse and suspicion of abuse will be responded to promptly and appropriately. We will act in the best interest of the child, young person or vulnerable adult at all times.

Alderton Parish Council will take any concern made by a service user, employee, volunteer or child/vulnerable adult seriously and sensitively. Concerns cannot be anonymous and should be made in the knowledge that, during the course of any enquiries, the agency that made that referral will be made clear.

Alderton Parish Council will not tolerate harassment of any service user, employee, volunteer or child/vulnerable adult who raises concerns of abuse.

Children using the facilities would be the responsibility of their parents.

Any organised events which may be open to children and vulnerable adults will have appropriate staffing with the required credentials before proceeding.

Any organisation or group using Parish Council facilities for youth sports will be

 required to show proof of DBS or other valid checks before being allowed to commence activities.

No member of the Council will be undertaking any planned activities which leave them alone with vulnerable individuals. If it is likely that such a scenario will occur then a full DBS check will have to obtain prior to the activity.

In the event that some events or organisations open to children or vulnerable adults do not satisfy the above requirements, activities will be denied, but support will be given to the groups or organisations to assist them in attaining the necessary credentials to carry out their activities in the future.

**Procedure**

Any concerns will be brought to the attention of the Clerk who will report the concern to the Chair, and in their absence the Vice Chair.

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 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.

Please refer to the contact numbers given below.

**SCC Social Services Free phone 0808 800 4005**

**Out of Office Hours Emergency Duty Team 01473 299669**

**Suffolk Constabulary 01473 613500**

**LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board): 01473 264733 http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/**

**Child line 0800 1111**

**Age Concern Advice Line 0800 169 6565**

**Senior line 0808 800 6565**

