

WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Child Protection Policy

Responsibility: Finance & Administration/Full Council
Review Cycle: At least every three years or earlier in the event of legislative changes

Date of Adoption/Renewal	Date for review
September 2019	September 2022

Introduction

From time to time Withyham Parish Council might be involved in initiatives and funding of activities for young people.

In such cases WPC should be reassured that any such groups which make provision for children and young people ensure that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount;
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity 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 (paid/unpaid) have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.
- It is recognised that staff/volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse nor decide if abuse has occurred.

Policy Statement

WPC has a duty of care to safeguard all children from harm involved in activities related to WPC initiatives and funding. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account.

A child is defined as under 18 (The Children Act 1989)

Policy Aims

The aim of the WPC Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

- Ensuring that any initiatives and activities funded by WPC provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of that group or organisation
- Allow all staff/volunteers of groups and organisations involved in any initiatives and activities funded by WPC to be able to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

To this extent WPC would expect all groups that are involved in any initiatives and activities funded by WPC that involve children and young people to have a child protection policy. This should be provided to the Clerk before the initiative or funded activity commences.