

HOCKERING PARISH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Approved: November 2022
Date of Review: November 2025

Hockering Parish Council acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable persons and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The policy is the responsibility of all Councillors of Hockering Parish Council.

The Parish Council recognise the need to ensure the welfare of children and vulnerable persons when they come into contact with any services we provide.

All councillors have a responsibility to report any safeguarding concerns over the welfare of children and vulnerable persons. This extends to the identification of signs of abuse, poor practice toward staff and other councillors and persons acting on behalf of the council.

Councillors must not attempt to investigate for themselves neither must they confront anyone who is allegedly responsible for abuse or advise them that allegations have been made.

All concerns should be reported to the proper officer of the council (The Clerk) without delay. These concerns should be passed on to Norfolk County Council at the earliest opportunity – if it is out of hours contact the emergency number. If danger is imminent or a criminal offence committed dial 999.

Allegations against a Councillor Any councillor (in any capacity) who has any safeguarding allegation made against them regarding children or vulnerable adults should report this to the Clerk or Chair of the Council. The Chair or Clerk:

- Will seek advice from Breckland District Council
- Offer appropriate welfare support to the councillor
- Ensure they are kept appropriately informed during any investigation period.
- Refer the incident to the monitoring officer to deal with in accordance with the code of conduct.

Working with other organisations:

Any external organisations working with the Parish Council will ensure they have safeguarding procedures in place by providing the Parish Council with copies of their policies.