

Aislaby, Middleton and Wrelton Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- 1.2 This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults for any activities relating to Aislaby, Middleton and Wrelton Parish Council.
- 1.3 This policy will be reviewed regularly.

2 Definitions

- 2.1 Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18 years.
- 2.2 Vulnerable adult: anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation; or may need community care services.

3 To Whom This Policy Applies

- 3.1 This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Aislaby, Middleton and Wrelton Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

4 Promoting a Safe Environment

- 4.1 In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Aislaby, Middleton and Wrelton Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its activities,. In order to achieve this, Aislaby, Middleton and Wrelton Parish Council will:
 - provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments;
 - ensure that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
 - make available on public noticeboards and to employees and councillors relevant contact details.
- 4.2 Employees, councillors and volunteers all have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. If they have concerns, these should be passed on to the relevant authorities as soon as possible.

5 Allegations against staff and volunteers

- 5.1 All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.
- 5.2 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the North Yorkshire County Council Safeguarding Childrens and Adults teams.
- 5.3 If you need medical advice and support fast, but it's not life threatening, call your GP or NHS 111. Police – 101 NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

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You should always call 999 in an emergency – for example when someone’s life is at risk or someone is seriously injured or critically ill.

6 Whistleblowing

6.1 We recognise that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.

6.2 All 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 Safeguarding Teams at North Yorkshire County Council.

7 What should be a cause for concern

7.1 Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or a vulnerable adult. A child or vulnerable adult may be abused by parents, other relatives or carers, professionals and their peers, and abuse can occur in any family OR in any other area of society, regardless of social class, wealth or geographical location.

7.2 Abuse falls into five main categories:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- financial abuse
- neglect

7.3 All staff and volunteers need to have an awareness that there are many other forms of abuse ranging from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

7.4 Further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the Ryedale and North Yorkshire County Council website.

[SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE \(ryedale.gov.uk\)](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/safeguarding)

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/safeguarding>

8 Contact Information

North Yorkshire County Council Customer Service Centre for children and adults:

- Tel: 01609 780780 Email: social.care@northyorks.gov.uk

North Yorkshire Police:

- Child Abuse Investigation Team 101
- MASH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 101