



## **Child Protection Policy**

Resolved at Full Council 25th January 2021

Reviewed 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Review date – Annually

### **Policy Statement**

Haddenham Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children (U18) under the Children Act 2004 are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

### **Policy Objective:**

To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children. To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation. To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.

The Parish Council does not provide care or supervision services to children apart from the provision of a Youth Club in collaboration with specialist providers. The Parish Council has specific child protection policies for the Youth Club.

### **Aims**

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Haddenham Parish Council should any child protection issue arise during their work.

### **Responsibilities & Procedures**

A Child Protection Officer will be appointed from within the Council and his/her responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that before any Parish Council organised event with children, the Child Protection Officer brief participants appropriately.
- Ensuring that members are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties.
- Ensuring that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties they are mindful of the risk they face.
- Ensuring that before any volunteers or paid members of staff are recruited to work with children they are interviewed, two references and a DBS check taken up.

All new councillors are to be provided with a copy of the child protection policy and are required to acknowledge they will abide by it. Councillors will adhere to the 'List of Recommended Behaviour' namely:

- A minimum of two adults present when supervising children.
- Not to play physical contact games.
- Adults to wear appropriate clothing at all times Ensure that accidents are recorded in an accident book.
- Never do anything of a personal nature for a young person.
- Keep records in an incident book of any allegations a young person may make to any committee member or volunteer. Incident book to be presented to the Parish Council full meeting for inspection
- If there is a child abuse incident it should be reported to the Child Protection Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and also referred to the Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment.

Playground facilities offered by the Parish Council have been inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation.

Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.

In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Child Protection Policy.

### **Declaration**

Haddenham Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect.

All members of Haddenham Parish Council should read the Council's Child Protection Policy. Having read the Policy they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children who are involved in Parish Council activities.

This Policy will be reviewed annually at the first meeting following the Annual Parish Council meeting.