



Sydenham Parish Council Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2023

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This policy outlines practice that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using parish council facilities. The policy will be reviewed by the parish council annually.

Definitions

Children and young people:

Anyone under the age of 18 years

Vulnerable Adult:

Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- Or may be in need of community care services

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Sydenham Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, Sydenham Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. In order to achieve this, Sydenham Parish Council will:

- Provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments.
- Ensure that employees, and councillors are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Make available on public notice boards and to employees and councillors, the contact details of the following:
 - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) (contact details dependant of area in which the Parish sits)
 - The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), 01865 815956
 - The NSPCC 0800 800 5000
 - The Social Care Emergency Duty Team (EDT), 0800 833 408
- 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 Local Social Care Duty Officer, the MASH or EDT as soon as possible.

Allegations against staff and volunteers

- All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.
- All staff should be aware of the settings behaviour/discipline policy.

- The Parish should follow the OSCB procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers, a copy of which can be found or on the through the OSCB website.

No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the LADO (contact details above).

Whistleblowing

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

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 LADO or Safeguarding Team.

What should be a cause for concern

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

Abuse falls into four main categories:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

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).

Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children will have accessed appropriate child protection training through the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) but further information about types of abuse, signs to look for and what to do if you are concerned are also available on the OSCB website (www.oscb.org.uk).

All agencies, whether statutory, voluntary or other are obliged to follow the procedures laid out on the OSCB website.

Reporting Concerns

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB)

To report a new concern

To report a concern of abuse or neglect, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0845 0507666.

Or you can email an [enquiry form](#) to the MASH on mashchildrens@oxfordshire.gcsx.gov.uk

To talk about an on-going concern

If you want to speak to someone about an already open case, contact the relevant Children's Social Care Team;

- Oxford City – 01865 328563
- North Oxfordshire (including Banbury, Witney, Bicester, Carterton and Woodstock) – 01865 323039
- South Oxfordshire (including Faringdon, Wantage, Thame, Didcot and Henley) – 01865 323041
- Emergency Duty Team – 0800 833 408

John Radcliffe Hospital Assessment Team – 01865 221236 (for antenatal safeguarding concerns and issues concerning children in the hospital)

If you are unsure whether to make a referral

You can contact your Locality Senior Social Worker and request a 'no names' consultation (meaning you don't give the child's name). You will either be referred directly to a Social Worker, or will be called back by one when they are available, and you can then discuss the situation with them and they will advise you on what to do next. If a referral needs to be made, they will advise you of this.

- Oxford City – 01865 328563
- North Oxfordshire (including Banbury, Witney, Bicester, Carterton and Woodstock) – 01865 323039
- South Oxfordshire (including Faringdon, Wantage, Thame, Didcot and Henley) – 01865 323041

To report concerns about child sexual exploitation

If a child or young person has made a disclosure regarding sexual exploitation or if you think a child may be at risk of being sexually exploited, please contact the Kingfisher Team on 01865 335276. Out of hours calls to this number will be diverted to the Thames Valley Police Referral Centre.

To report concerns about a professional or person in a position of trust

Please contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to report an allegation, on 01865 810603 or email LADO.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk

To notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement

Please contact the Private Fostering Social Worker on 01865 323188.

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made without the involvement of the local authority for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative for 28 days or more, in the carer's own home. For more information on this see the [Parents and Carers](#) Page

To find out more about what to do

Visit the OSCB [procedures page](#) for multi-agency procedures. This includes topics such as:

- private fostering
- child sexual exploitation
- female genital mutilation
- disabled children
- forced marriage
- children missing education

Useful links

Early Education Toolkit

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/earlyeducationtoolkit

Safeguarding guidance for professionals

www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children

Useful Safeguarding Contact Details

ASSESSMENT & INFORMATION TEAMS - To report a concern of abuse or neglect, please contact the relevant Children's Social Care Assessment team.

Contact	Telephone
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Professionals wanting to make a new safeguarding concern (MASH enquiry) on a closed case, should call the MASH Team or email mash-childrens@oxfordshire.gcsx.gov.uk	0345 0507666 Urgent concerns call 999
South Oxfordshire (including Faringdon, Wantage, Thame, Didcot and Henley) for any new safeguarding concerns on open cases and a no names consultation cfassessmentsouth@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 323041
Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)	0800 833 408
John Radcliffe Hospital for antenatal safeguarding concerns and issues concerning children in the hospital	01865 221236
Kingfisher Team (Child Sexual Exploitation)	01865 309196
Social and Health Care Team	0345 050 7666

EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY TEAM AND LADO – To report an allegation against a person in a position of trust, please contact the LADO and Schools Safeguarding team.

Contact	Email	Telephone
Local Authority Designated Officer	LADO.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 810603
Education Safeguarding Advisory Team	Esat.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 815956

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) – For general safeguarding issues, please contact the OSCB team on OSCB@oxfordshire.gov.uk, tel. 01865 815843 www.oscb.org.uk

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Childline (18 or under) 0800 1111