



## **CHILD PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY**

Peacehaven Town Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

### **Definitions**

A child is under 18 years of age (The Children Act 1989)

A vulnerable adult is a person: "who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation". (1997 Consultation Paper 'Who decides?', issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department)

The Town Council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons in that:-

- The welfare of the child and the vulnerable adult is paramount
- All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly
- All staff, volunteers and elected Members of the Council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer who will refer the matter to the relevant service for formal investigation. You must refer, you must not investigate
- Ensuring that the Council practices safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children and vulnerable people
- Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) checks will be carried out on Officers of the Council where appropriate. In line with best practice, these checks will be repeated every four years
- Councillors, volunteers and other members of staff will not be subject to DBS checks unless there is a change in the council duties which requires regular contact with children and vulnerable people
- Peacehaven Town Council has a 'duty of care' to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes including risk assessment and health and safety practices
- No member of the Town Council, staff, helpers or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children and vulnerable adult, unless appropriately vetted
- All members of staff, helpers and volunteers will be made aware of this policy and the relevant procedures. Relevant training in this area will be provided

- Hirers of our facilities are made aware of our Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult policy and where appropriate, at the time of their booking, will be asked to produce a copy of their child protection policy

- Arrangements have been put into place to protect children and vulnerable adults who wish to attend Town Council Meetings

Agreed by the Policy and Finance Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 for the addition of charging for the service (ratified by Full Council on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016).

Policy Adopted on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 –

Reviewed August 2018

To be reviewed again July 2021

