

FLIXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Child Protection Policy

Name of organization: Flixborough Parish Council

Address: 21 Flixborough Road, Burton Upon Stather, Scunthorpe, DN15 9HB

Purpose of organization: To serve the community as the first level of local government

Date of review: May 2021

Date of next review: May 2022

Policy Statement on safeguarding children

All children have a right to protection from abuse and Flixborough Parish Council takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people. We will:

- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse and provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns
- Have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse
- Maintain good links with statutory child care authorities.

The Policy

Flixborough Parish Council recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of neglect and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Accordingly, Flixborough Parish Council has adopted the following policy guidelines. The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against staff and volunteers. Flixborough Parish Council recognises the need to build constructive links with the local child care agencies. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the North Lincolnshire Child Protection Procedures. They will be kept under review and be supported by appropriate training.

The policy applies to all staff and volunteers who act on behalf of Flixborough Parish Council and who come directly into contact with children. Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person in respect of child protection of concerns relating to safeguarding children. The designated person must decide if the concerns should be communicated to Children and Family Services or the Police.

Flixborough Parish Council will adopt the LSCB Principles outlined in Appendix 1.

Definitions of abuse [taken from hm govt working together 2013]

PHYSICAL ABUSE: Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting; by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

SEXUAL ABUSE: Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

NEGLECT: Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food; clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

What you should do if you suspect abuse

1. You must report concerns as soon as possible to Holly Scott, Clerk to the Parish Council (phone number: 07724611507) who is nominated by Flixborough Parish Council to act on their behalf in referring allegations of suspicions of neglect or abuse to the statutory authorities. If it is an emergency, and the designated person cannot be contacted, then Children and Family Services or the Police should be contacted at the numbers given below:
 - North Lincolnshire Children Services, Church Square House, Church Square, SDN15 6XQ 01724 296500 or 01724 296555 [after office hours] local authority designated officer 01724 298293 local safeguarding children board training coordinator 01724 296654
2. If the suspicions relate to the designated person, then Children and Family Services should be contacted.

3. Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone, other than those named above.
4. It is the right of any individual to make direct referrals to the child protection agencies. We would hope that an individual would use this procedure. However, if you feel that the organisation has not responded appropriately to your concerns, it is open to you to contact the child protection agencies direct.

Allegations of physical injury, emotional abuse or neglect

If a child has an injury which may be a non-accidental injury, or symptoms of neglect and a referral is to be made then:

1. The designated person should contact child and family services. If there has been a deliberate injury or where there are concerns about the child's safety the child's parents should not be contacted before first consulting with children and family services.
2. Where emergency medical attention is necessary it should be sought immediately. The designated person should inform the doctor of any suspicion of abuse.
3. If a referral is being made without the parent's knowledge and non urgent medical treatment is required, Children and Family Services should be informed. Otherwise, speak to the parent/carer and suggest medical attention be sought for the child.
4. If appropriate the parent/carer should be encouraged to seek help from the Children and Family Services Department prior to a referral being made. If they fail to do so in situations of real concern the designated person will contact children and family services directly for advice.

Allegations of sexual abuse

In the event of allegations of sexual abuse the designated person will:

1. Contact the Children Services or Police Child Protection Team directly. The designated person will not speak to the parents.
2. Under no circumstances should the designated person, or any other member of the organisation, attempt to carry out any investigation into the allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse. The role of the designated person is to collect the exact details of the allegations or suspicion and to provide this information to the child protection agencies that will investigate the matter under the Children Act 1989.

What to do once a child has talked to you about abuse

1. Make a note immediately of what the child has said, writing down exactly what the child has said, write down what you said in reply, when they said it and what was happening immediately beforehand. Record dates and times of the events and when the record was made. Keep all notes secure.
2. Report your discussion as soon as possible to the designated person.

3. Once a child has talked about abuse the designated person must consider if it is safe for a child to return home to a potentially abusive situation. On a rare occasion it might be necessary to take immediate action to contact children and family services and/or the police to discuss putting into effect safety measures for the child so that they do not return home

4. You may include details of where and how child protection concerns will be recorded and stored.

5. Allegations against staff or volunteers will be investigated following local procedures. Where there are concerns that a child has been put in danger of abuse, or has suffered abuse owing to the actions of a member of staff or volunteer the Local Authority Designated Officer or the police will be contacted. Details of any allegation which has not resulted in a referral will be kept securely in the same way as described in 4 above.

6. Add additional policies/procedures, e.g. recruitment of staff.

Maintenance of records

Flixborough Parish Council will ensure that documents are stored and destroyed in line with the Parish Councils Data Retention Policy.

How we ensure safe staff/volunteers

We will identify that there is a position for work and a job description will be produced and we will advertise the position. We will follow Safer Recruitment principles and procedures. And we will take up references and ensure that we speak to the referees to confirm details. We will undertake relevant Checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service and follow up any information pertaining to the person and their check. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/DBS. We will undertake an induction, supply supervision and relevant training.

We will ensure understanding of all the organisations policies and procedures [not only the safeguarding policy]; to support good, safe practice.

E safeguarding and acceptable use policy for electronic equipment

The only electronic equipment owned the Parish Council is the lap top computer allocated to the Parish Clerk solely for use for Parish Council Business. Access to the laptop is secured by password. Any data held will be done so following the Parish Councils Information Security Procedure and Data Retention Policy.

Whistle blowing procedures

The governance advisor for Parish Councils is the Monitoring Officer of North Lincolnshire Council telephone : 01724 296296.

Contact details for Flixborough Parish Council (FPC):

The Parish Clerk, Mrs Holly Scott 21 Flixborough Road, Burton-Upon-Stather, North Lincolnshire, DN15 9HB. Telephone: 07724611507.

Designated /senior child protection person for FPC:

Parish Clerk – as FPC Contact above.

Appendix 1 LSCB Safeguarding Principles

We will work in the best interests of children and young people.

Children and young people will be listened to and we will hear what they have to say.

We will support children and families at the earliest opportunity appropriate with meeting their needs.

We will respect the individuality of each child, young person and their family.

We will assess children, young people and families' needs using the agreed assessment processes, and we will undertake these assessments in partnership with children and their families.

Professionals will collaborate with each other and work in partnership with children, young people and their families to deliver support.

We will work to improve outcomes for children and young people.

We will record and share information appropriately with children and families so that they receive consistent responses from professionals from all agencies.

We will be open to learning and be willing to develop responding to best evidence and best practice.

We will work in an open and honest manner with children, young people and their families and each other.

H. Scott