

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY

29. Introduction

29.1 Etchingham Parish 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.

30. Safeguarding

- 30.1 The council will endeavour or safeguard children and vulnerable persons, in that:
- The welfare of the child and 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 and appropriately
 - All employees, volunteers and elected members of the council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer
 - All employees, volunteers and elected members of the council are not to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred

31. Duty of care

- 31.1 Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out in accordance with the eligibility criteria in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.
- 31.2 Etchingham Parish 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.
- 31.3 Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by an employee or councillor must be referred immediately to the Parish Clerk who will refer the matter to Social Services at Surrey County Council for investigation.

You must refer – you must not investigate