

LOOE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Introduction

Safeguarding is everybody's business. We all have a responsibility to make sure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected and cared for properly, no matter who they are or what their circumstances.

In resolving to create a Neighbourhood Plan for Looe, the Looe Town Council accepts that in the work carried out with the community to develop the Plan, it has a responsibility to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect.

The Neighbourhood Plan Core Steering Group, made up of local councillors, local residents, local business and organisations, shares this responsibility.

Statement

The Core Steering Group accepts that in acting on behalf of the Looe Town Council, it has a role and responsibility in safeguarding and promoting children and vulnerable adult's welfare; it will meet this responsibility by:

- Ensuring that proposals and policies developed in the Neighbourhood Plan take account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare and are informed by the views of children and vulnerable adults;
- Making a commitment to follow safe procedures in events, engagement and consultation activity;
- Requiring all who act on behalf of the Group (volunteers, consultants, etc) take note of this statement;
- Making a commitment to share information with the agencies responsible for safeguarding;
- Making a commitment to quickly follow reporting procedures on safeguarding matters should an incident occur;

Guidance

Further information on the issue, for the guidance of the Core Steering Group and others involved in creating the Looe Neighbourhood Plan, is given overleaf.

GUIDANCE

Safeguarding children and young people

A child is “anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. ‘Children’ therefore means ‘children and young people’ throughout. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate for children and young people, does not change his or her status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act 1989. (See Children’s Act 2004)

What is child abuse?

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. It can occur in a family or in an institutional or community setting. It may be by people known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger for example via the internet. They may be abused by adults, or other children. The main forms are:

- **Physical abuse:** such as hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.
- **Emotional abuse:** persistent emotional maltreatment of a child that could cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.
- **Sexual abuse:** forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Actual physical contact isn’t always involved: it can include non-contact activities, such as encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).
- **Neglect:** 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, such as:
 - not providing adequate food, clothing and shelter;
 - not protecting a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
 - not ensuring adequate supervision; or
 - not ensuring appropriate medical care or treatment.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults

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”.

What is abuse of vulnerable adults?

It’s ‘a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It can occur in any formal or informal relationship, and may result in significant harm to or exploitation of the person subjected to it. Abuse may involve single or repeated acts’.

The main forms of abuse are:

- **Physical abuse:** including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, inappropriate sanctions
- **Sexual abuse:** including rape, sexual assault, sexual acts to which a person has not consented, could not consent or was pressurised into consenting
- **Psychological abuse:** including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, humiliation, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation
- **Financial or material abuse:** including theft, fraud, exploitation, and pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, possessions or benefits
- **Neglect:** including ignoring medical, physical care, social care or educational needs, the withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition, and heating
- **Discriminatory abuse:** including racist, sexist, disability based and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment
- **Institutional abuse, neglect and poor professional practice:** this may take the form of isolated incidents of poor professional practice, through to pervasive ill treatment or gross misconduct.

If you see or suspect any safeguarding issue, please inform the Town Clerk

If there is an *immediate safeguarding issue* that concerns you, follow the route described below.

How to make a safeguarding adults alert/referral

In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly a safeguarding adults referral is called a safeguarding adults alert.

To make a safeguarding adults alert in Cornwall you need to contact Adult Care, Health and Wellbeing on **0300 1234 131**.

Your call will be put through to the Access Team. They will listen to what you have to say and will ask you questions so they fully understand the concerns you are raising.

When the offices are closed you can call **01208 251 300** for emergencies only.

How to make a safeguarding children and young people alert/referral

If you wish to report an incidence of abuse or neglect, please contact the central referral unit on: **0300 123 1116**.

Outside normal working hours there is an out of hours service available to ensure that urgent situations are responded to appropriately. The out of hours service runs from Monday to Thursday 5.15pm (4.45pm on Fridays) until 8:45am weekdays and for 24 hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

The service can be contacted by phoning: **0300 1234 100** who, via Bodmin Hospital, put calls through to a Duty Officer. The service is run on a rota basis by qualified and experienced social work staff and there is a manager available to support the Duty Officer



