Safeguarding Policy

Adopted 28 May 2020 minute ref 20/16

Introduction

Bruton Town Council recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and young people under the age 18 and vulnerable adults, over the age of 18, who may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

All people have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation and to that end the Town Council adopts this policy that applies to, and must be followed, by all Town Councillors, staff, employees and volunteers (referred to as representatives of the Council).

The following principles are those upon which this Safeguarding Policy is based:

- The welfare of a child, young person and a vulnerable adult will always be paramount;
- The welfare of families, the vulnerable and the elderly will be promoted;
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families and vulnerable adults will be respected and listened to; and
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the Town Council will work in accordance with the interests of those safeguarded and follow the policy outlined below.

This document is written in recognition of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 guidance, the Children Act 2004, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Care Act 2014.

Policy Statement

<u>Prevention and Reporting of Abuse and Responding to Concern</u>

It is the duty of every representative of the Town Council, whether that representative be a Councillor, staff, employee or volunteer, to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect or exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The Town Council will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked to the activity of the Town Council or Council representatives.

Safe Recruitment, Support and Supervision of Workers

The Town Council will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, whether paid or voluntary. Council representatives routinely working with children, young people or vulnerable adults will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of those deemed to be at risk.

Safe Behaviour: A Code of Behaviour for Council Representatives

The Town Council will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults so that they are shown the respect that is due to them.

Safe Practice and Safe Premises

The Town Council is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children, young people and vulnerable adults and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

Safe Community

The Town Council is committed to the prevention of bullying and abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Town Council will, within its scope of activities, ensure that the behaviour of representatives of the Town Council posing a risk to children, young people or vulnerable adults is managed appropriately.

Responsible People

The Town Council has appointed the Town Clerk and/or the incumbent Mayor as the Designated Person(s) for Safeguarding. The Designated Person(s) for Safeguarding will oversee and monitor implementation of this policy and any resultant procedures on behalf of the Town Council. In particular, the Designated Person(s) for Safeguarding will:

- advise the Town Council on any matters related to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and
- take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Each representative of the Town Council working with children, young people or vulnerable adults, whether paid or voluntary, will be given a full copy of this policy and resultant procedures and will be required to follow them.

A full copy of this policy and resultant procedures will be made available on request to any member of the local community.

This policy and resultant procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually.