WHITEHILL
TOWN COUNCIL
Serving Whitehill & Bordon

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Date of adoption: 09.09.2018 Review date: 08.10.2026 Next Review 10.2028

Contents

1.	Purpose of Policy	Page 2
2.	Definitions	Page 2
3.	Policy Statement	Page 2
4.	Responsibilities	Page 2
5.	Prevention and Reporting of Abuse and Responding to Concern	Page 2
6.	Safe Recruitment, Support and Supervision of Workers	Page 2
7.	Safe Practice and Safe Premises	Page 3
8.	Policy and Procedures	Page 3
9.	What to Do if You Have Concerns	Page 3

1. Purpose of Policy

This policy outlines how Whitehill Town Council (WTC) safeguards the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It ensures:

- Everyone is protected from harm;
- Safe practices are promoted across all WTC activities;
- Councillors, staff and volunteers understand their legal responsibilities.

2. Definitions

- Children/Young People: Anyone under 18.
- Vulnerable Adults: Anyone over 18 who:
  - Needs community care services;
  - Cannot care for themselves or protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

3. Policy Statement

WTC is committed to:

- Preventing harm, abuse and exploitation;
- Supporting victims and cooperating with investigations;
- Ensuring all representatives understand safeguarding duties and know how to access help or report concerns.

This policy aligns with current UK legislation and guidance, including the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

4. Responsibilities

Safeguarding includes:

- Protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Addressing issues like bullying (including cyberbullying), discrimination, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, radicalisation and modern slavery;
- Ensuring safe environments and practices for those with medical needs.

All WTC representatives must:

- Promote safety and wellbeing;
- Respect the rights and voices of children, families and vulnerable adults;
- Follow the policy and code of conduct provided during induction.

5. Prevention and Reporting of Abuse, and Responding to Concern

All WTC representatives must:

- Report any suspected or disclosed abuse;
- Respond to concerns and cooperate with statutory investigations.

6. Safe Recruitment, Support and Supervision of Workers

WTC ensures:

- Safe recruitment of staff and volunteers;
- DBS checks are completed where required;

- Ongoing training and supervision are provided.

7. Safe Practise and Safe Premises

WTC commits to:

- Creating safe spaces for activities involving children and vulnerable adults;
- Adopting practices that promote wellbeing and reduce risk.

8. Policy and Procedures

- All representatives receive a copy of this policy.
- Copies are available to the public upon request.
- The policy is regularly reviewed and updated.

9. What to do if you have Concerns

Concerns should be reported to the Town Clerk or Leader of the Council. They will contact the appropriate authority.

Useful Contacts/Links

- **Hampshire Children's Services**: 0300 555 1384 | childrens.services@hants.gov.uk
- **Adult Services**: 0300 555 1378
- **Out of Hours**: 0300 555 1373
- **Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership**: https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk
- **Hampshire Constabulary**: 999 (Emergency) | 101 (non-emergency)