

Pillaton Parish Council

Children, Young Persons and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

**21 March 2023
Revised 2 December 2025**

It is not up to you to decide whether a child, young person or vulnerable adult has or is suffering harm as a result of abuse or neglect, but it is up to you to report any concerns as soon as possible.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Safeguarding Policy is to provide a framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young persons and vulnerable adults. The policy aims to ensure that:

- All children, young persons and vulnerable adults are safe and protected from harm;
- Other elements of provision and policies are in place to enable children, young persons and vulnerable adults to feel safe and adopt safe practices; and
- Everyone (e.g. Councillors and volunteers) are aware of the expected behaviours and the organisation's legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young persons and vulnerable adults.

Policy Statement:

This policy develops procedures and good practice within Pillaton Parish Council to ensure that each person can demonstrate that there is an understanding of the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Parish Council deplores the sexual exploitation of children and will not tolerate failure at any level to prevent harm, support victims and bring offenders to justice. This policy has been developed in line with government legislation, publications and guidance. Where someone is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, action will be taken to protect that person. Pillaton Parish Council has a responsibility to make sure that it has an effective safeguarding policy and procedures in place and monitors that the council complies with them. Our organisation has appointed a Safeguarding Lead who has responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues. Our organisation recognises that for this policy to be effective, it is essential that everyone working in and for the organisation has an understanding of what safeguarding is, know that 'safeguarding is everybody's responsibility', know how to access safeguarding information, know of any possible contribution that they may be required to make to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults and how to access further advice, support or services.

Definitions:

The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

Child and Adult Abuse: Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

- Bullying and cyberbullying

- Child sexual exploitation
- Child Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

Safeguarding children: Safeguarding children is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Legal Framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning and cornwall.gov.uk.

If a child, young person or vulnerable adult makes an allegation or disclosure of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, the Council will:

- stay calm and listen carefully;
- reassure the person that s/he has done the right thing in telling you;
- not investigate or ask leading questions;
- let the person know that s/he will need to tell the Safeguarding Lead;
- not promise to keep what they have been told a secret;
- inform the Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible; and
- make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which will be signed, and dated.

Training and Awareness:

Pillaton Parish Council will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available and delivered to its Trustees, members, volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. contractors).

For all Councillors or volunteers who are working or volunteering with children, this requires them as a minimum to have awareness training that enables them to:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children
- Recognise a child potentially in need of safeguarding and take action
- Understand how to report a safeguarding alert
- Understand dignity and respect when working with children
- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Children Policy

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

Pillaton Parish Council expects all Councillors, volunteers and others involved with the village hall to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed.

Recording and Record Keeping:

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding an adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) - The Parish Clerk is the Council Data Controller.

Use of Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology:

All trustees and volunteers should be aware of Pillaton Parish Council policy and procedures regarding the use of mobile phones and any digital technology, and understand that whilst it is not unlawful to photograph children and young people in public without the explicit consent of the person with parental responsibilities, any photography taken with a view to publication (for instance on social media) or in support of Council business must have that explicit consent of the person with parental responsibilities.

In addition, it is Parish Council policy that for any activity or event organised by the Parish Council, a notice will be included (on social media, website, posters or promotional material) stating that photography may take place during that activity

and anyone who does not wish to have their image published should notify the event organisers or a Councillor.

Whistleblowing:

It is important that people within the Pillaton community have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong-doing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another member or volunteer. There is also a requirement by Pillaton Parish Council to protect whistle-blowers.

Important Contacts:

Safeguarding Lead Councillor Name: Mr Peter Johnson Email address: pjohnsonpillaton@aol.com Telephone number: 07776 492910

Pillaton Parish Council Chairman Contact : Mr Dave Dolley, 01579 350159

Cornwall Council Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) – for children multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk 0300 123 1116: for adults 0300 123 4131. Out of hours for any person 01208 251 300

Police Emergency – 999

Police Non-emergency – 101

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Signed: ***Signed on original***

2 December 2025

Mr Dave Dolley

Chairman, Pillaton Village Hall CIO