

## Sampford Courtenay Parish Council Safeguarding Children Policy

Sampford Courtenay Parish Council takes its responsibility to ensure the safety and promote the welfare of the children that use the play equipment and the village green very seriously. This is in line with the procedures laid out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). If there are any causes for concern they must be reported to the relevant bodies following the LSCB procedures.

Everyone has a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of the aforementioned using the village green. This policy will be reviewed by the parish council annually.

In order to promote a safe environment for children SCPC wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its activity areas. In order to achieve this SCPC will

- ~ provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety assessments
- ~ ensure that councillors are aware of the safeguarding expectations and provide up to date training where necessary
- ~ make available on public notices and to councillors details of the following

1. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
2. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
3. The Social Care Emergency Duty Team
4. The NSPCC
5. The police

Councillors have a duty to protect young children, but are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. Nor do they have a responsibility to investigate situations themselves.

If they have concerns these should be directed to the Local Social Care Duty Team, the MASH or the police.

Councillors need to be aware that abuse falls into 4 main categories.

1. Physical
2. Emotional
3. Sexual
4. Neglect

A child could be suffering from one or a mixture of these.

Councillors should be aware that there are also other forms of abuse, such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), trafficking and FGM for example.

Where an allegation of abuse is made, the need to protect the child must come first and Social Services must be contacted.

- ~ listen to the child and reassure them that they have done nothing wrong in reporting the event
- ~ show that you have heard what they are saying, understood and that you take their

allegations seriously

- ~ encourage the child to talk, listen carefully and allow the child to finish
- ~ do not prompt them or ask them leading questions
- ~ do not interrupt when the child is recalling the event and do not make the child repeat their account
- ~ remain calm and caring and explain to the child what actions you must take in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child
- ~ inform the child that you cannot promise not to share this information, but that everything you do will be in the interests of their safety
- ~ do not examine the child

In all circumstances you must

- ~ record what you have been told using the child's exact words as far as is possible
  - ~ make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion
  - ~ record the child's full name, age and address
  - ~ record any action taken such as speaking to the child's parents/carers
  - ~ follow up your phone call to social services with a letter within 48 hours
  - ~ all contact with the social services duty team must be recorded
- All documentation including records of concern and MASH enquiries must be kept securely.

Allegations against councillors-

All councillors should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. The parish council should follow the LSCB procedures for managing allegations against themselves, a copy of which can be found on the LSCB website. No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the LADO.

The play area on the village green is open to the public and is unsupervised. It is therefore recommended that young children are accompanied by an adult and that older children inform their parent/carer as to their whereabouts when using the facilities.

The village green is enclosed on 4 sides and there are gates to the road. For the safety of children dog owners are prohibited from exercising their dogs on the village green and a notice informing them of this is displayed on both gates to the green.

Deborah Taylor-Morris has been nominated as the safeguarding/child protection officer for the playground and anyone with any concerns can contact her on 01837 82743.

Or alternatively please contact

- ~ MASH/LSCB 0345 1551071
- ~ CYPS social care 01392 382059
- ~ social care emergency duty team 08456 000888  
or South West and West Devon EDT 01392 386080
- ~ LADO 01392 384964
- ~ the police

If an injury occurs and an ambulance is required the grid reference for the village green is SS632 012.

The postcode of the properties to the west of the green is EX20 2SZ.

A public phone box can be found in the centre of the village opposite the path adjacent to the churchyard.

A copy of this policy should be provided to each member of the parish council, published on the village website and displayed at the village green.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of this policy should contact the parish clerk Marion Pratt on 01837 82285

This policy will be reviewed annually.

This policy is approved in accordance with the requirements of Sampford Courtenay Parish Council.

Date ..... 16.6.15.....

Signed ..... *J Tucker*.....