

RUDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CHILD PROTECTION & VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Rudgwick Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

2. Safeguarding

- 2.1 The council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons, in that:
- The welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount.
 - All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse.
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
 - All staff, volunteers and elected members of the council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.
 - All staff, volunteers and elected members of the council are not to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred.

3. Duty of care

- 3.1 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out in accordance with the eligibility criteria in the Rehabilitations of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.
- 3.2 Rudgwick Parish Council has a duty of care to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes (**under development**) including risk assessment and health & safety practices.
- 3.3 Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff or Councillor must be referred immediately to the Clerk who will refer the matter to Social Services at West Sussex County Council for investigation.

You must refer; you must not investigate