



**Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross,  
Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas**

## **Rotherfield Parish Council**

### **Policy for child protection and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults**

#### **Policy statement**

Rotherfield Parish Council is committed to maintaining the welfare of people whilst they are using the village facilities described within this policy. The Council recognises its own responsibilities to take all reasonable steps to protect and safeguard children and to safeguard vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Council also expects its partner organisations, which manage or use village facilities, to recognise their own responsibilities, to comply with this policy and to ensure they have arrangements in place to protect and safeguard children and to safeguard vulnerable adults.

#### **Definitions and shared beliefs – children**

##### **Child**

A 'child is' anyone under 18 years of age.

##### **Child protection**

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or at risk of suffering harm. Effective child protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should aim to proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced (*See Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures*).

##### **Shared beliefs**

The needs of the child are paramount and should underpin all child protection work and resolve any conflict of interests. All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm and exploitation whatever their:

- Race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- Gender or sexuality
- Age
- Health or disability
- Location or placement
- Criminal behaviour (if any)
- Political or immigration status

(*See Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures*).



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### **Definitions and key concepts used in understanding adult abuse**

Safeguarding vulnerable adults uses a number of terms or concepts. These include vulnerability, significant harm and adult abuse, which are explained below.

#### **Vulnerability**

The term vulnerable adult refers to any person aged 18 years or over who 'is or may be in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation'. (Who Decides. Lord Chancellor's Department 1997).

#### **Significant harm**

The term significant harm helps to determine how serious or extensive abuse must be to justify intervention, 'harm should be taken to include not only ill-treatment (including sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment that are not physical); the impairment of, or an avoidable deterioration in, physical or mental health; and the impairment of physical, emotional, social or behavioural development'. (See Who Decides. Lord Chancellor's Department 1997).

#### **Adult abuse**

'Abuse is a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons. Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or failure to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.'

'Physical, sexual, financial, emotional, discriminatory or psychological violation or neglect of a person unable to protect him/herself to prevent abuse from happening, or to remove him/herself from abuse or potential abuse by others.' (See No secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse. Home Office and Department of Health 2000).

#### **Context**

Rotherfield Parish Council has no direct involvement with the running of any premises in the parish. However, it has limited responsibility for the following facilities:

- The children's play area and Recreation Ground is open to all members of the public. The Parish Council has no direct contact with any children or young people using these facilities.
- Rotherfield Village Hall, for which the Parish Council owns the building. The Village Hall has a Management Committee, which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the hall and its long-term viability.

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- Rotherfield Memorial Institute, for which the Parish Council are Sole Trustee and Property Custodian Trustee. The Rotherfield Memorial Institute Management Committee are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Institute.
- Rotherfield Scout & Youth Hall for which the Parish Council owns the building. 1<sup>st</sup> Rotherfield Scout Group is responsible for the running of the facility.
- Pre-School for which the Parish Council own the building. Rotherfield Pre-School is responsible for the running of the facility.
- Court Meadow Green which is owned by the Parish Council and is open to all members of the public.

### **Policy**

In developing this policy, Rotherfield Parish Council has drawn upon the Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures and the Pan Sussex Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, which are based on, and comply with, all contemporary legislative and policy frameworks and are regularly updated. They provide guidance for anyone who has a concern and seeks advice or wishes to raise a concern with the appropriate authority. These documents can be found at:

<https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk> (Children)

<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/worried/sab/> (Adults)

**It is the responsibility of all councillors and employees to be familiar with this policy and its supporting documents.**

Rotherfield Parish Council has no specific person, either Councillors or staff members who are involved in the care of children or adults at the facilities listed above, but will ensure that, should a concern arise, the correct procedures related to this policy are followed.

The Chairman of the Council, or another Councillor delegated by the Chairman, and the Clerk are the Council's nominated representatives for child protection and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. The nominated representatives can be contacted via the Clerk (contact details at the end of this document).

If concerns are raised with the Council's nominated representatives a 'record of concern' will be initiated. This will be kept in a confidential file in a locked cabinet and only shared with other individuals and agencies in line with the information sharing protocols set out in the Pan Sussex child and adult procedures. However, the Council abides by the principle that the protection of a child or vulnerable adult is always paramount.

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## **Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas**

Rotherfield Parish Council requires that any organisation running or using any facility owned by Rotherfield Parish Council have a policy in place covering child protection and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and to make it available to the Council on request.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

**Reviewed: May 2023**

**Review Date: May 2024**