

Safeguarding

This information is supplied by Cornwall Council's Safeguarding team. You can read more about their work at this link:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/what-is-safeguarding/>

1.0 Background

1.1 In October 2022, Cornwall Council and CALC jointly launched a toolkit to provide information to parish councils about safeguarding. Safeguarding is about protecting children, young people and adults who are vulnerable from abuse or neglect. This Briefing Note explains what the toolkit includes, and how parish councils can improve their understanding of safeguarding. The eventual aim is for the council to agree a safeguarding policy, be able to make an informed response to concerns about safeguarding and be a model of good practice that other stakeholders in the parish are encouraged to copy.

2.0 The toolkit

2.1 The document has been produced by Cornwall Council as a guide to parishes who wish to understand what safeguarding is and why having policies and practices is important. It explains in detail what the different kinds of abuse are (distinguishing between adults and children & young people), how to create a safeguarding policy and how to report concerns. You can view the full copy from the website above.

3.0 The current situation

3.1 CALC is asking that councils undertake a review of your safeguarding arrangements or put them into place for the first time. At the time of writing, this council makes one single reference to safeguarding in the terms and conditions attached to its donations application form. Currently, there are no actions in place to follow up the condition, to promote awareness of safeguarding among beneficiaries of your donations or other stakeholders in the parish.

4.0 The proposal

4.1 The Chair is asking that at their next meeting, councillors discuss and agree to recognise the importance of safeguarding and further agree to set up a working group to manage its response to CALC's concerns. This would mean asking for volunteers to create a policy and guidelines for implementation. The scope of work would be to:

- Review the Safeguarding Toolkit for Town & Parish Councils
- Advise councillors on the importance of making safeguarding a priority
- Support the adoption of a 'designated person' for safeguarding
- Create a policy statement
- Identify training needs and manage their delivery

5.0 Next steps

5.1 Please browse through the presentation from Cornwall Council to get an overview of the scope of safeguarding.

5.2 Examine the draft terms of reference for the working group.

Menheniot Parish Council

Safeguarding Working Group

Established January 2023

Scope of working group

- To examine policy documents and other items to raise their own awareness of safeguarding as it applies to parish councils
- Highlight the principal areas of concern for this parish
- Examine proposals to create a portfolio for a 'designated person' for safeguarding
- Create a role profile for the designated person
- Create a policy statement
- Identify training sources
- Examine the role of other parish stakeholders and make recommendation on their wider engagement

Key policy documents are

- CC Safeguarding Toolkit
- Draft Safeguarding Policy

Outputs

- Draft safeguarding policy for councillors to adopt
- Action plan for adoption
- Role profile for designated lead (if agreed)
- Training resources and schedule for the designated lead and other councillors

Membership

Will include the council's Chair, Vice Chair and one other councillor.

Management

Of the group will be the responsibility of the council chair, who will deliver progress reports to the parish council as required. Meetings of the group will take place on an 'as required' basis without formal notice.

Administration

The group will be administered by the parish clerk.

Timescale

TBA

14 December 2022