



Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

Moretonhampstead Parish Council is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of all individuals, particularly children, young people and adults at risk. Councillors and staff do not routinely work directly with children or vulnerable adults. However, during community activities and events, occasional contact may occur.

2. Purpose of the Policy

This policy ensures that councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors understand how to identify and report safeguarding concerns in line with current legislation and good practice.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors acting on behalf of Moretonhampstead Parish Council.

4. Legal Framework

This policy supports compliance with the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Care Act 2014
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (as amended)

5. Responsibilities

All Councillors, Staff and Volunteers:

- Must report safeguarding concerns promptly to the Safeguarding Lead (the Clerk), or in their absence to the Deputy Safeguarding Lead (the Chair of the Council).
- Must not investigate allegations or confront individuals.
- Must follow [Devon County Council safeguarding reporting procedures](#).

Parish Clerk and Chair:

- Receive reports of concerns or allegations.
- Refer allegations involving councillors or staff to the Monitoring Officer or relevant authority.
- Maintain secure records of safeguarding concerns.

6. DBS Eligibility

Moretonhampstead Parish Council does not routinely require DBS checks for councillors, as their role does not involve regulated activity with children or adults at risk. DBS checks are only required where a councillor, staff member or volunteer undertakes additional duties that meet the legal definition of regulated activity. Participation in community events — including activities where children attend with parents/guardians or youth groups attend with their own leaders — does not constitute regulated activity, and councillors remain not responsible for supervising children.

7. Risk Management

The Council recognises the risks associated with safeguarding failures. This policy helps mitigate risk through clear reporting routes and awareness of:

- Signs of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, financial, neglect).
- Indicators of radicalisation (Prevent Duty).
- Issues relating to mental capacity (Mental Capacity Act 2005).

At community events, children remain the responsibility of their parent/guardian or youth group leaders.

8. Reporting Concerns

Concerns about a child or adult at risk should be reported to:

- **Devon County Council Safeguarding (Children or Adults)**
- **Police (999)** if someone is in immediate danger
- The **Safeguarding Lead** as soon as possible

The Council will follow local authority procedures and will not investigate allegations internally.

9. Review

The Safeguarding Policy was ratified by Full Council on 2 June 2026. Future reviews will be carried out every two years or sooner if legislation or best practice changes. The next review is scheduled for May 2028.