**Children’s Safeguarding Policy for**

**Broughton Moor Parish Council**

 Broughton Moor Parish Council abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

* We recognise the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
* All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation has an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
* Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
* Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare.

**Purpose:**

Broughton Moor Parish Council will:

* Protect children and young people who attend our activities.
* from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services
* Provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Broughton Moor Parish Council including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

**Definitions**:

**The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is:** anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

**A child at risk:**

A child at risk – is a child who: **Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm**. Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).

Abuse is defined as a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). A child may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

 **Physical abuse:**

 A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Emotional abuse:**

 The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child’s developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill- treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

 **Sexual abuse:**

 Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as

 masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

 **Child sexual exploitation:**

 is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

 **Neglect:**

 The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

• Provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment).

• Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger

• Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers). • Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment It may also include

neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

 **Extremism:**

 Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable, including the young, by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society. Extremism is defined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 as the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.

 **County lines:**

 As set out in the Serious Violence Strategy, published by the Home Office, a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of ‘deal line’. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

 **Child criminal exploitation:**

 As set out in the Serious Violence Strategy, published by the Home Office, where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology.

**Adult at Risk:**

* Anadult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
* is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
* as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

**Child and Adult Abuse:** Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

* Bullying and cyberbullying
* Child sexual exploitation
* Child Criminal exploitation
* Child trafficking
* Domestic abuse
* Female genital mutilation
* Grooming
* Historical abuse
* Online abuse

**Safeguarding children:** Safeguarding children is defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2) as:

* protecting children from maltreatment.
* preventing impairment of children’s health or development.
* ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
* taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

**Legal Framework**:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/).

**The Prevent duty**

Some organisations in England, Scotland and Wales have a duty, as a specified authority under section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, to identify vulnerable children and young people and prevent them from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty. These organisations include:

* Schools
* Registered childcare providers
* Local authorities
* Police
* Prisons and probation services
* NHS trusts and foundations.
* Other organisations may also have Prevent duties if they perform delegated local authority functions.

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme.

**Radicalisation** is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm.

**Extremism** is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

**Training and Awareness:**

Broughton Moor Parish Council will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its Trustees, Employees, Volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. contractors).

All councillors who provide activities for children without parental involvement are DBS checked

If a volunteer or employee has not undertaken a DBS check, they will be supervised at all times by a suitably qualified DBS checked member of the team and will at no time be left alone unsupervised.

All training will be overseen by Chairman, Mrs Denise Scott, who holds Level 3 safeguarding qualification and is the designated lead.

For all employees who are working or volunteering with children, this requires them as a minimum to have awareness training that enables them to:

* Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children.
* Recognize a child potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
* Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
* Understand dignity and respect when working with children.
* Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Children Policy.

Training will be undertaken in line with local authority guidelines this will include e-learning via the Cumbria safeguarding children partnership and will be updated annually or as deemed necessary.

Similarly, employees and volunteers may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of an adult at risk of abuse.

**Confidentiality and Information Sharing:**

 Broughton Moor Parish Council expects all employees, volunteers and trustees to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or **contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed**.

**Recording and Record Keeping:**

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding a child/ adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made.

If a concern is raised, it will acted on as soon as possible.

If an allegation is made against Denise Scott the complainant will be guided to Mrs Lesley Dakers, Parish Councillor, committee member Mrs Mel Donnelly who also has safeguarding training, who will then follow through the procedure set out by the local safeguarding board.

All committee members are aware of the procedure they would need to follow.

All allegations will be documented and reported to

 Cumbria safeguarding hub: 0333 240 1727

LADO@cumbria.gov.uk

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

**Safe Recruitment & Selection:**

Broughton Moor Parish Council is committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices, that reduce the risk of harm to children from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them.

Broughton Moor Parish Council is a local authority with only one employee. The Council Chairman is Mrs Denise Scott, an Ofsted registered childminder who has a DBS check and a Level3 safeguarding qualification.

Mrs Denise Scott as chairman has the required safeguarding qualifications.

**Social Media:**

Permission is to be sought from all parties for any photos taken during activities implemented by the Parish Council, before posting on any social media site and may only be published if permission is given by all parties.

 **Use of Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology**

Parents/carers are asked to refrain from using their phones or other technology whilst in group however if photos are taken they must not include other children without the permission and only displayed with permission.

**Whistleblowing:**

It is important that people have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong- doing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another employee or volunteers.

This policy will be reviewed in May 2023 and updated as needed.

**Important Contacts:**

**Senior Lead for Safeguarding**Name:Denise Scott
Email address :dennyscott@sky.com
Telephone 07525537052

Cumbria safeguarding hub: 0333 240 1727

LADO@cumbria.gov.uk

**Police**
Emergency – 999
Non-emergency – 101

**NSPCC Helpline**
0808 800 5000

**What to do if you think a child is at risk:**

Are you concerned a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm e.g.

• You may observe an injury or signs of neglect.

• You are given information or observe emotional abuse.

• A child discloses abuse.

• You are concerned about the safety of a child or unborn baby.

1. Notify Designated Safeguarding Lead.

• Inform parents/ carers you will refer to Children's Social care UNLESS

The child may be put at increased risk of further harm e.g. suspected sexual abuse, suspected fabricated or induced illness, female genital mutilation, increased risk to child, forced marriage or their is a risk to your own safety

1. Make a telephone referral to Children’s Social Care and follow up referral in writing within 24 hours

• Document all discussions held, actions taken, decisions made including who was spoken to (for physical injuries document injuries observed) on our database.

• Where a CAF has been completed, forward this with the written referral

1. Children’s Social Care acknowledge receipt of referral and decide next course of action. If the referrer has not received an acknowledgement within 3 working days, contact Children’s Social care again.

 Any member of staff who believes or suspects a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, should always refer their concerns to Children Social Care. There should always be an opportunity to discuss concerns with a manager, Designated Safeguarding Lead or professional but this must never delay emergency action to protect a child.

1. You may be requested to provide further reports/ information or attend a multi-agency meeting.

**Important Contacts:**

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