



Lanreath Parish Council
Safeguarding Children and
Vulnerable Adults Policy

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Owner	Lanreath Parish Council

The Council recognises that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that children, young people and adults at risk have the right to live free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Council does not directly organise activities for children, young people or adults at risk and does not ordinarily have direct contact with them through staff or Council members. However, the Council works with community groups that do have such contact and may provide or make available Council property or support activities undertaken in the name of the Council. The Council therefore has a responsibility to promote safe practice, to respond appropriately to concerns and to ensure that organisations using Council facilities or acting on behalf of the Council understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

Definitions:

Child or Young Person: anyone under the age of 18.

Adult at Risk (formerly referred to in this policy as a Vulnerable Adult): an adult who has care and support needs, whether or not those needs are being met, and who is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and is unable to protect themselves because of those needs.

Who Does This Policy Apply to?

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Lanreath Parish Council, whether in a paid, voluntary, commissioned or elected capacity. It also sets expectations for organisations and community groups using Council property or undertaking activities in the name of the Council.

Promoting a Safe Environment.

In order to provide a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults Lanreath Parish Council will ensure:

- That those working for the Council in any capacity are aware of safeguarding policies, culture, expectations and reporting arrangements.
- That the Council designates a Safeguarding Lead and keeps the relevant contact arrangements available to councillors, staff and volunteers.
- That appropriate safeguarding awareness or training is encouraged for councillors, staff and relevant volunteers, with additional training where the duties of a role require it.
- That community organisations using Council premises or acting in the name of the Council are expected to have appropriate safeguarding arrangements,

including suitable supervision, safer working practices and relevant checks where required for their activities.

- That the Council does not undertake safeguarding investigations. Concerns are referred to the appropriate statutory service or other competent authority.
- That safeguarding concerns are dealt with promptly, proportionately and on a need-to-know basis, with information recorded and stored securely.

Safeguarding Concerns and Referrals.

Anyone who becomes concerned that a child, young person or adult at risk may be experiencing abuse, neglect or another safeguarding risk should take the concern seriously, listen calmly if a disclosure is made, avoid leading questions, and make a prompt referral or seek advice. They should not investigate the concern, confront an alleged perpetrator, or promise that information will remain secret.

The current Cornwall safeguarding contacts are:

Children and Young People – Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU): 0300 123 1116.

Adults – Adult Safeguarding: 0300 123 4131.

Safeguarding referrals out of hours: 01208 251 300.

If someone is in immediate danger or requires urgent police/medical assistance: call 999.

A concern may be reported even where the person making the referral is uncertain whether abuse or neglect has occurred. Advice should be sought from the appropriate safeguarding service rather than attempting to decide the outcome of the concern within the Council.

Responding to a Disclosure or Cause for Concern.

Where a safeguarding concern is raised, the person receiving the concern should:

- Listen and remain calm; take what is said seriously.
- Reassure the person that they have done the right thing by speaking up, without promising confidentiality.
- Record the facts as soon as possible, using the person's own words where practicable, and include the date, time and circumstances.
- Report the concern promptly to the appropriate statutory safeguarding service, or seek advice where the correct route is unclear.
- Take reasonable immediate steps to protect the person from further harm where this is within the Council's control.
- Keep records securely and share information only with those who need it for safeguarding purposes.

Maintaining the Safety of Images of Children.

The Council will ensure that any images of children published by the Council, either on its website or in Council literature, are published only where appropriate consent has been obtained from a parent or legal guardian, or where another lawful basis clearly applies.

The Council will require organisations publishing images of children on the community section of the Lanreath Parish Council website to obtain appropriate consent and to follow their own safeguarding and data protection responsibilities.

The Council will avoid identifying children by name alongside photographs on its website unless there is a clear and appropriate reason to do so and the necessary consent or other lawful basis exists.

The Council will ensure that children are not identified by name on its website.

Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers.

Councillors, staff and volunteers should avoid placing themselves in a position where they could be vulnerable to accusations of inappropriate or abusive behaviour. Appropriate safeguards include avoiding unnecessary one-to-one situations with children, using suitable communication channels, maintaining professional boundaries and ensuring that activities are appropriately supervised.

The Council will follow the guidance and local safeguarding arrangements published by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership and Cornwall Council.

Where an allegation concerns a person who works with or has responsibility for children, the Council will seek advice from and, where required, refer the matter to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Cornwall's current LADO contact is 01872 326536 and lado@cornwall.gov.uk. The LADO should be informed within one working day where the allegation meets the relevant threshold.

The Council will not undertake its own investigation into a safeguarding allegation where this could interfere with a statutory safeguarding, police or LADO process. The Council will cooperate with the appropriate authority and take any necessary interim steps to protect children or adults at risk.

Safeguarding Adults and Persons in a Position of Trust.

Where a concern relates to an adult at risk, the Council will follow Cornwall Council's adult safeguarding arrangements. Where an allegation concerns a person in a position of trust, the Council will seek advice from the Adult Safeguarding service and follow the appropriate referral process.

Where an adult is injured or in immediate danger, 999 should be called. Where a crime is suspected but there is no immediate danger, the police can be contacted on 101 in addition to any safeguarding referral.

Whistleblowing.

The Council understands that children, young people and adults at risk may not be able to raise concerns on their own behalf. Councillors, staff and volunteers therefore have a duty to raise safeguarding concerns even where they are uncertain about the circumstances. No person should be disadvantaged for raising a safeguarding concern in good faith.

If a concern involves the Council's Safeguarding Lead, the Clerk, the Chair or another person who would normally receive the concern, advice should be sought directly from the appropriate statutory safeguarding service or LADO rather than allowing the concern to remain within the normal reporting route.

Identifying Causes for Concern.

Any behaviour, action or inaction towards a child, young person or adult at risk which affects their physical, emotional or psychological safety, wellbeing or development may be a safeguarding concern. Abuse can be carried out by parents, carers, family members, professionals, volunteers, other adults or peers and can occur in any community or setting.

The main recognised categories of abuse include:

Physical

Emotional or psychological

Sexual

Neglect

Domestic abuse

Financial or material abuse

Discriminatory abuse

Organisational or institutional abuse

Self-neglect in relation to adults at risk

More than one type of abuse may occur at the same time. Councillors and volunteers should also be aware of specific risks affecting children, including child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, criminal exploitation and online abuse.

Training and Information.

The Council expects councillors, staff and relevant volunteers to have an appropriate level of safeguarding awareness for their role. Further information and training should be obtained from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership and Cornwall Council safeguarding services. The Council will review training needs when responsibilities change or safeguarding guidance is updated. Relevant Cornwall Council safeguarding bodies include:

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership – local safeguarding arrangements and procedures.

Cornwall Council – Children and Young People's Safeguarding.

Cornwall Council – Adult Safeguarding.

Cornwall Council – Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) arrangements.

Policy Review and Governance.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner where there are significant changes to legislation, statutory guidance or local safeguarding arrangements. The Council will ensure that contact details and referral routes are checked as part of each review. Any material changes will be considered and approved by the Parish Council.

Adoption

This policy was last reviewed and approved by Lanreath Parish Council on 15 September 2026.