

## **KERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULT POLICY 2026**

'Vulnerable' individuals:

- Children under 18 years
- Young people
- People with learning difficulties or physical disabilities
- Frail elderly people
- Carers
- Pregnant workers and new mothers

The Council has a duty of care to all those using land, premises, equipment and facilities under its control within the Ward. This policy applies to councillors, staff, contractors and volunteers.

Principles: The Council has a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of land, premises, equipment and facilities under its control within the Ward, as well as those who may come into contact with vulnerable users. Members should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person, and/or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person. This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Policy:

1. No member, no employee and no volunteer of the Council will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults.
2. Any suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child will be taken seriously and referred to the principal authority speedily and appropriately.
3. The Council will ensure to the best of its ability that the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and shall alert the principal authority and the police service where appropriate. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children will not be permitted or tolerated.
4. All councillors will be made aware of this policy.
5. The Council will establish a safe environment within the outdoor playgrounds under its control which meet current play equipment and playground surfacing regulations.
6. The Council will ensure that young people and vulnerable users are welcome to meetings and will feel safe and secure in the meeting environment.
7. The Clerk will assist anyone who is unable to read notices wherever displayed and any physically disabled person who wishes to attend meetings, as far as practicably possible.
8. All facilities will be available as far as possible to all users.

9. The Council will strive to use various types of media to publicise its actions.

Reporting incidents: The nominated Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adult representative is the Clerk. He/she will be responsible for reporting concerns that may arise, as a matter of urgency, to Powys County Council as the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency.

The Clerk will know –

Who to contact at Powys County Council - <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1895/How-to-report-abuse-A-Safeguarding-Concern> contact number - 0345 602 7050

Information regarding about helplines and other sources of help for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Monitoring: This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually by full Council.