

## **SHOCKLACH OVIATT AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

#### **Introduction**

Shocklach Oviatt and District Parish Council recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and young people under the age 18 and vulnerable adults, over the age of 18, who may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

All people have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation and to that end the Parish Council adopts this policy that applies to, and must be followed, by all Parish Councillors, staff, employees and volunteers (referred to as representatives of the Parish Council).

#### **The following principles are those upon which this Safeguarding Policy is based:**

- The welfare of a child, young person and a vulnerable adult will always be paramount.
- The welfare of families, the vulnerable and the elderly will be promoted.
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families and vulnerable adults will be respected and listened to.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the Parish Council will work in accordance with the interests of those safeguarded and follow the policy outlined below.

#### **Prevention and Reporting of Abuse and Responding to Concern**

It is the duty of every representative of the Parish Council, whether that representative be a Councillor, staff, employee or volunteer, to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect or exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The Parish Council will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked to the activity or facility of the Parish Council or Council representatives.

#### **Safe Practice and Safe Premises**

The Parish Council is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with

children, young people and vulnerable adults and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

**Responsible People**

All Members of the Parish Council including Councillors and employees are responsible for Safeguarding.

\* Adopted 13 May 2026