

Weston-super-Mare Town Council

Child Protection Policy Statement

Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Weston-super-Mare Town Council is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environments for children and young people.

Weston-super-Mare Town Council believes everyone who participates and engages with its services and provisions is entitled to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment. Weston-super-Mare Town Council have a moral and legal obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for young people, staff and volunteers provide them with the highest possible standard of care.

Weston-super-Mare Town Council is committed to devising and implementing policies so that all staff and volunteers accept their responsibilities to safeguard children from harm and abuse. This means to follow procedures to protect children and report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities or persons.

The aim of the policy is to promote good practice, providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of Weston-super-Mare Town Council and to enable staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (Children's Act 1989)

Policy Statement

Weston-super-Mare Town Council is committed to and recognises the following:

- That all children have the right to freedom from abuse
- That all children, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity should be able to participate in and access provision and services in an enjoyable and safe environment
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights wishes and feelings

- That all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- That all Weston-super-Mare Town Council employees and volunteers will be recruited with regard to their suitability and acceptance of responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children in their care, and will be provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and child protection procedures
- Working in partnership with parents and children is essential for the protection of children

Monitoring and review of the policy and procedures

- Appointment of a Child Protection Officer who will take specific responsibility for child safety and act as the main point of contact for staff, parents, children and outside agencies.

The CPO should:-

- Regularly monitor and review the implementation of procedures
- Regularly report progress, challenges, difficulties, achievements, gaps and areas where changes are required to the (Management Committee/Town Clerk)

The policy should be reviewed every year or whenever there is a major change in the organisation or in relevant legislation.

Child Protection Policy Declaration

Declaration

On behalf of **Weston-super-Mare Town Council** I _____, will oversee the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and take all necessary steps to ensure it is adhered to.

Signed.....

Name.....

Position in the organisation.....

Date.....

Signed.....

Name.....

Child Protection Officer

Date.....