

Loughton Town Council

Child Protection Policy (Safeguarding)

Good child protection practice protects not only children, but also the staff who may come into contact with them. This is called a safeguarding culture. Subject to the Committee's approval of this policy, a more detailed procedural document will be prepared.

The Committee is asked to consider and approve this draft policy:

1. The Council believes that children* must be protected from harm at all times and that every child should be valued, safe and happy.
2. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
3. We want children who use or have contact with the Council to enjoy our facilities in safety.
4. We want parents and carers who use or attend our playgrounds, recreation grounds and council events to be supported to care for their children in a way that promotes their child's health and well-being and keeps them safe.
5. We will achieve this by following national and local guidance.
6. If we discover or suspect a child is suffering harm we will notify social services or the police in order that they can be protected if necessary.
7. This child protection policy applies to all councillors, staff and volunteers at Loughton Town Council and anyone carrying out any work for us or using our premises.
8. This policy will be review at least every 2 years to make sure it is still relevant and effective.

** For the purpose of this policy a child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children's Act 1989). However, this policy may also be used to protect vulnerable adults.*

Agreed 3 December 2014