

**New Mills Town Council  
Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Policy**



## **Introduction**

New Mills Town Council (NMTC) takes seriously the welfare of people who come onto its premises or who are involved in any of its activities. In particular NMTC recognises its own responsibilities to take all reasonable steps to protect and safeguard children and to safeguard vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation in accordance with current legislation.

## **1. Definitions**

**1.1** Children and young people are legally defined as any person under the age of 18. In this policy the terms child and children refer to persons under the age of 18.

**1.2** Vulnerable adults in this policy means adults with care and support needs as defined in the Care Act 2014. The Care Act 2014 defines adults with care and support needs as anyone over the age of 18 who:-

**1.2.1** has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and

**1.2.2** is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect; and

**1.2.3** as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk or of the experience of abuse or neglect.

## **2. Objectives**

Objectives of this policy are:-

**2.1** to ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by NMTC are designed and maintained to reduce the risk to children and vulnerable adults

**2.2** to promote the general welfare, health and development of children, by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate

**2.3** to develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.

## **3. Limitations**

As NMTC does not directly provide care or supervision services to children and vulnerable adults, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

## **4. General Provisions**

While NMTC staff do not usually have direct contact with children, it is the policy of NMTC that all relevant members of staff are DBS checked as a condition of their employment.

**4.1** Staff members are reminded not to find themselves in situations where they may be alone with a child during the course of their duties.

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- 4.2 Councillors who will come into direct and unsupervised contact with children as part of their term of office will be DBS checked.
- 4.3 visitors to NMTC buildings will be supervised by a member of staff (eg meter readers).
- 4.4 any land owned and managed by NMTC and used by clubs or groups; those clubs or groups are responsible for the protection of children and vulnerable adults in their care.
- 4.5 NMTC will always ask permission of parents, guardians, carers or another responsible adult if they wish to take photographs at events where children or vulnerable adults will be identified. Parents, guardians, carers and responsible adults have the right to refuse permission. Group or crowd photographs in public places are excluded from this where children or vulnerable adults will not be identified.
- 4.6 Any member of staff or a Member of the Council who is alerted to, or suspects abuse of a child or vulnerable adult should in the first instance report the suspicion to the Town Clerk who will in turn report the matter to the appropriate authority in an appropriate manner.

## **5. Review**

This policy will be reviewed three years from the date of adoption by NMTC.