

Boyton Parish Council.
Safeguarding Policy
for the protection of children and vulnerable adults

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. Whilst Boyton Parish Council has no premises, it occasionally runs events. Most of these events are aimed at family attendance and not specifically for children young people and vulnerable adults. This policy therefore reflects the current operations. This policy will be reviewed every three years or when/if circumstances warrant additional requirements

Boyton Parish Council wishes to promote a safeguarding culture and will:

- display the referral procedure and contact details on the public noticeboard
- endeavour to ensure the safety, wellbeing and protection of children and vulnerable adults attending a BPC event reporting any abuse that may be suspected or discovered.
- ensure that all employees, Councillors and volunteers have a copy of the Policy and are aware of their responsibilities.
- ensure that all employees, Councillors and volunteers are aware that they have a legal responsibility to refer when a disclosure is made although they are not responsible for deciding whether abuse has taken place.

Guidelines

While protection guidelines for vulnerable adults differ significantly from those that apply to children, the following guidance offers safe practice for the care of both groups. An event plan should consider and address the following issues:

Plan the event so as to minimise situations where abuse or neglect may occur.

Apply agreed procedures for protecting children, young people or vulnerable adults to all team members. Make sure that volunteers are not working on their own or they are at least in sight or hearing of others. Have male and female leaders.

Who would be the main safeguarding contact for your event?

Would you need some sort of password for radio contact to indicate a missing/lost child?

Where will be your safe place to escort vulnerable children/adults to if necessary?

What efforts will you make to re-unite the individual with their parent or guardian, as appropriate, or make a referral to statutory agencies as appropriate?

Think about what you would do if a child/vulnerable adult chose to leave your area or refused to go?

Inform all volunteers about the signs, and symptoms of abuse and neglect.

Signs and Symptoms of Abuse

For adults and children, the signs of abuse can often be similar. Abuse for vulnerable groups can generally be viewed in terms of 7 main categories; Physical, Sexual, Financial, Neglect, Psychological, Discriminatory and Institutional.

A child is abused when a parent, carer, other family member or adult known to the child deliberately causes harm, neglects or fails to protect their child from harm.

The following categories are used for children who are subject to a child protection plan and for statistical recording:

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional Abuse

For an adult, the definition is wider to include Financial, Discriminatory and Institutional abuse. More information on signs and symptoms can be found on the Adult and Children's

Safeguarding Board websites.

Definitions and key terms:

The legal definition of a child is 'a person under the age of 18'

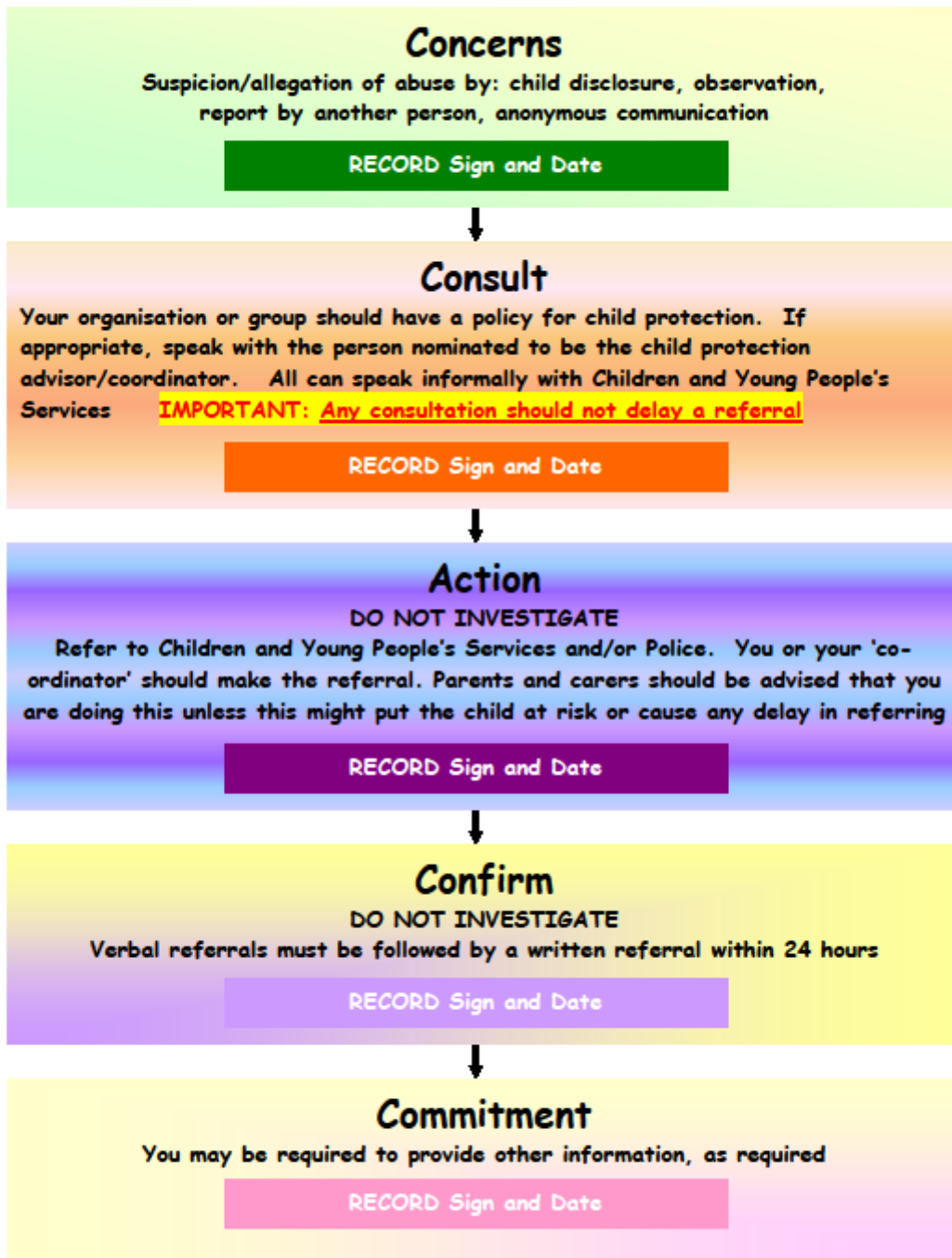
The definition of a vulnerable adult is someone aged 18 or over:

- Who is, or may be, in need of community services due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability
- Who is, or may be, unable to take care of himself/herself, or unable to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation.

Abuse can affect any vulnerable adult, but particularly someone who is, or may be, unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation, for example:

- Older people
- People with mental health problems
- Disabled people
- People with learning difficulties
- People with acquired brain damage
- People who misuse substances.

Flowchart for Referral



REMEMBER

DO NOT DELAY - CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND POLICE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Flowchart for Referral

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD or vulnerable adult?

TELEPHONE AND REFER!

A general principle for referral is outlined
in the flowchart overleaf

Telephone Numbers:

Children's Services:

Customer First freephone No: 0808 800 4005

Emergency Duty Service

Week days: 5.20pm to 8.45am

Weekends: 4.25pm Friday to 8.45am Monday 0808 800 4005

Adult Services freephone No: 0808 800 4005

Suffolk Police: 01473 613500

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

Suffolk's Guidance and Procedures
for safeguarding children and
vulnerable adults are available :



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