

Chetnole and Stockwood Parish Council

Child Protection Policy

Adopted

8th July 2010

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 Chetnole and Stockwood Parish Council (the Council) is responsible for the provision of Facilities upon and the maintenance and care of Chetnole Playing Field.
- 1.2 The Council permits use of the Playing Field by the public and by independent organisations but does not provide any supervision of activities carried out by other organisations upon the Playing Field.
- 1.3 The Council does not have any employees. The Parish Clerk serves under a contract for services. Nor does the Council directly appoint or accept the services of volunteers who would have dealings with children or young persons. The Council's role regarding use of the Playing Field is thus purely advisory.

2. **Policy Statement**

The Council is committed to supporting the creation and maintenance of a safe and secure environment for all children and young people

3. **Definitions**

3.1 **What is a child?**

- The Children Act 1989 defines a child as a person under eighteen for most purposes. These procedures also apply to vulnerable adults.

3.2 **What is abuse?**

- Physical abuse: may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm
- Neglect: the persistent failure to meet basic essential needs of a child whether physical, psychological or emotional, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's development; may also involve a failure to protect a child from physical harm or danger
- Emotional abuse: persistent ill treatment of child that causes harm by lack of love and affection, or threats, verbal attacks, taunting or shouting
- Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to participate in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend, or to which they are unable to give informed consent, or which violate social taboos of family role; includes non-contact activities.

A child may suffer more than one category of abuse.

4. **Provision of a safe environment**

The Council will ensure that health and safety legislation is adhered to in order to provide a safe environment for users.

5. **Child Protection Procedures**

- 5.1 The Council will require all bodies including voluntary bodies who are responsible for organizing activities in which children or young persons are involved to have in place suitable Child Protection Policies and Procedures.
- 5.2 Any Councillor who becomes aware of any suspicion or report of child abuse must report it to the Parish Clerk together with a brief written note of any incident, conversation, dates, times, names and other relevant information., who will follow up the matter and contact the relevant authorities. If it is felt the child or young person is in imminent danger of significant harm the Parish Clerk may decide to contact social services and/or the police straight away.
- 5.3 Keeping children safe from harm requires information to be shared about any possible risks to the child. Where there are concerns that a child is, or may be at risk of significant harm, the needs of that child must come first and the overriding objective must be to safeguard the child. The safety of the child takes priority over issues of confidentiality, but the terms of the Data Protection Act still apply.

6. **Contacts**

Dorset County Council – Social Services
North Dorset Office
Bath Road
STURMINSTER NEWTON
DT10 1DR
01252 472652
email: northdorsetsocialservices@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Sherborne Police Station
Digby Road
SHERBORNE
DT9 3NL
01935 812101
Email: Enquiries.Sherborne@dorset.pnn.police.uk

7. **Review**

This policy was adopted by the Council in 2010. It will be monitored and changes in legislation will be acted upon. It will be reviewed no later than 2015.