



Safeguarding

It's everybody's
responsibility

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Policy Statement

Fareham Borough Council is committed to working in partnership with others to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

This policy aims to ensure that an overarching approach to safeguarding is embedded within all Council services and that staff, Elected Members, those delivering contracts on behalf of the Council and volunteers understand their role and responsibilities in supporting all residents to live a life free from abuse, exploitation and intimidation.

Fareham Borough Council will create an environment where everyone is encouraged to think of safeguarding as being their responsibility, understanding the need for them to play a full and active part in the delivery of the Council's response. It will create an organisational culture where the reporting of abuse and exploitation is encouraged, and everyone feels supported to do so.

The Council believes that all individuals, regardless of age, disability, gender and gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation, should have the greatest possible control over their lives. They should be able to make informed decisions or be supported to make these decisions if unable to do so themselves, without fear of harm or abuse from others. The Council will ensure that it complies with all relevant safeguarding legislation.

The senior officer responsible for safeguarding is the Head of Environmental Health. On a day-to-day basis, the main point of contact for raising safeguarding issues is the Designated Safeguarding Officer – the Community Safety Manager.

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, seen from the side, sitting at a desk and typing on a white keyboard. The desk is dark, and there are various office supplies like a mouse and a pen visible. The image is partially obscured by a purple banner at the bottom.

Information Sharing

To keep children and vulnerable people safe from harm, professionals will share relevant information across geographical and professional boundaries as required.

When there is reason to believe that a child, young person or adult with care and support needs, may be suffering or may be at risk of suffering harm, we will always consider referring these concerns to the relevant authorities or discussing them at Fareham's Partnership Action Group.

Information about children, young people, families and adults at risk will be shared appropriately, and always in accordance with the Council's Information Management and Data Sharing Policy and the Hampshire Information Sharing Framework, to enable organisations to respond to quickly.

Information will also be shared in accordance with the Council's duty to supply information to the local Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Boards upon request, under the Care Act 2014 and the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, accordingly.





Children and young people

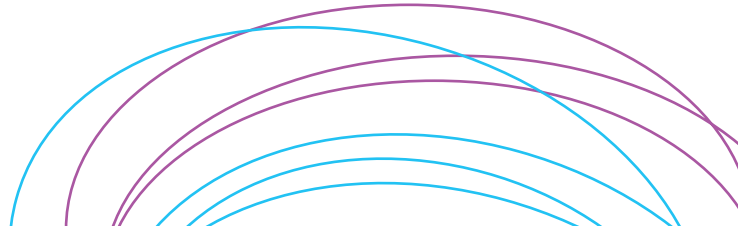
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people

This encompasses the protection and welfare of children under the age of 18 (including unborn babies). It also incorporates the additional aims of preventing the impairment of children's health and development; ensuring they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, providing optimum life chances.

All staff, elected Members, those delivering contracts on behalf of the Council and volunteers who come into contact with children or who work with adults who are parents, will be trained to recognise and act upon evidence that a child's (or unborn baby's) health or development is being or may be impaired, especially when they are suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

CSE is an illegal activity by people who have some form of power and control over children and use it to sexually abuse them. It involves forcing or enticing a child (under the age of 18) to take part in sexual activities whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This includes exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where children (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities. CSE can be a form of organised or complex abuse, involving a number of abusers and/or a number of children.





Safeguarding adults

The purpose of adult safeguarding is to prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs. The statutory framework introduced under the Care Act applies to any person aged 18 or above who:

- has needs for care and support (regardless of the level of need and whether or not these needs are being met),
- is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and
- as a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Adults with care and support needs should be supported in maintaining control over their lives and to make informed choices without coercion. Ill-treatment and wilful neglect of a person who lacks capacity is a criminal offence under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Honour based abuse, including female genital mutilation and forced marriage

Honour Based Abuse (HBA) is violence and abuse in the name of honour, covering a variety of behaviours (including crimes), mainly but not exclusively against females, where the person is being punished by their family and/or community for a perceived transgression against the 'honour' of the family or community, or is required to undergo certain activities or procedures in 'honour' of the family.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a collective term for illegal procedures which include the removal of part/all external female genitalia for cultural or other nontherapeutic reasons. The practice is not required by any religion. It is painful, medically unnecessary and has serious health consequences at the time it is carried out and in later life. The procedure is typically performed on girls of any age, but is also performed on new born girls and on young women before marriage/pregnancy. A number of girls die as a direct result of the procedure, from blood loss or infection

A Forced Marriage (FM) "is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of both parties, where duress is a factor" ('A Choice by Right' HM Government 2000).

Prevent

As a national counter-terrorist strategy Prevent aims to stop people becoming involved in terrorist activity or supporting terrorism by working with individuals and communities to address issues before they become a criminal matter, and to stop people moving from extremism into terrorist-related activity.

Prevent is a strand of the Government's anti-terrorism strategy led by the Home Office and focuses on working with individuals and communities who may be vulnerable to the threat of violent extremism and terrorism. Supporting vulnerable individuals and reducing the threat from violent extremism in local communities is priority for statutory partners and their partners.

Modern slavery

and human trafficking

Modern Slavery (and Human Trafficking) involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people who, with the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, abuse of power or deception are exploited

for the purposes of prostitution, forced labour, slavery or other similar practices. Victims are trafficked all over the world, including in and around the UK, and even throughout the district.

E-Safety

Children and adults with care and support needs can be easy targets for online grooming with a view to exploiting them, sometimes even without their knowledge. The Council takes very seriously the potential for online abuse and exploitation and works with partner agencies to raise awareness of e-safety within its workforce and the community by training staff to understand and recognise the signs and symptoms and report concerns to the appropriate agencies.





Roles and responsibilities

Staff and Elected Members must ensure they familiarise and comply with the Council's Safeguarding Policy and associated procedural documents. They must participate in relevant training to recognise the varying forms of abuse and report any concerns.

It is the responsibility of staff and Elected Members to consider safeguarding implications in their decision-making processes, including the procurement of services.

All external organisations, including voluntary groups and contractors providing services to

and on behalf of the Council are required to comply with the Council's Safeguarding Policy. Where appropriate they should have their own Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place, copies of which should be provided to the Council for reference.

Whilst safeguarding is the responsibility of all staff, Elected Members, those delivering contracts on behalf of the Council and volunteers, there are a number of safeguarding roles within the Council with specific responsibilities briefly set out below:

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
Chief Executive's Management Team	Overarching endorsement of Safeguarding within Fareham Borough Council
Head of Environmental Health	Delegated by CXMT (Chief Executive's Management Team) to implement policy and procedures
Community Safety Manager – Designated Safeguarding Lead	Operationally deliver day to day support, guidance and advice in relation to safeguarding. Provide information and advice to all safeguarding queries and record information or concerns received ensuring formal referrals are made to Hampshire County Council. Ensure adequate training is carried out.

A close-up photograph of several hands holding and fitting together colorful wooden puzzle pieces. The pieces are in shades of orange, red, green, and light blue. The background is a soft-focus blue.


Outcomes and priorities

The anticipated outcomes of this policy are:

- demonstration of commitment at the most senior level, to safeguarding in this Council and district;
- as far as is within the Council's control, influence and knowledge, to ensure that children and adults at risk are protected against abuse, neglect and/or exploitation;
- to embed the Council's approach and commitment to the safeguarding agenda;
- to have a clear line of accountability within the Council for safeguarding;
- to be fully compliant with all relevant legislation;
- to ensure that all staff and Elected Members are fully trained and aware of their responsibilities and the correct procedures to follow with regards to safeguarding.

Appendix 1 – Safeguarding procedures (as supplied) and leaflet

The Safeguarding Policy is supported by a condensed leaflet which summarises the policies and procedures reiterating the process; just visit www.fareham.gov.uk and search for safeguarding.

A series of overlapping, curved white lines on a blue background, creating a sense of motion and flow in the bottom right corner of the page.