



CHILD PROTECTION and SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Safeguarding Lead is Samantha Hughes, Camborne Town Clerk.

Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this Safeguarding Policy is to provide a framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people participating in the Camborne Town Council and Camborne Youth Council its associated activities. The policy aims to ensure that:

- The young people are safe and protected from harm;
- Other elements of provision and policies are in place to enable the young people to feel safe and adopt safe practices; and
- Everyone involved in or with the Camborne Town Council or Camborne Youth Council (eg Staff, The Council, Sub-contractors, Volunteers) are aware of the expected behaviours and the Camborne Town Council's legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people in our care.

Policy Statement

This policy develops procedures and good practice within Camborne Town Council and any outreach activities including the Youth Council to ensure that each person can demonstrate that there is an understanding of the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the young people participating in the activities. Camborne Town Council deplores the sexual exploitation of children and will not tolerate failure at any level to prevent harm, support victims and bring offenders to justice.

This policy has been developed in line with government legislation, publications and guidance.

Camborne Town Council takes seriously its responsibility under the current legislation to safeguard and promote the welfare of the young people who are participating. Where someone is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, action will be taken to protect that person.

Camborne Town Council has a responsibility to make sure that it has an effective Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place and monitors compliance with them. We have appointed a Safeguarding Lead who has responsibility for dealing with all Safeguarding issues.

Camborne Town Council recognises that for this policy to be effective, it is essential that everyone working with the Camborne Youth Council, Camborne Library and Events, has an understanding of what Safeguarding is, know that "Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility", know how to access Safeguarding information, know of any possible contribution that they may be required to make to safeguard the young people and how to access further advice, support or services.

Individual Responsibilities

Camborne Town Council recognises that Safeguarding is not just about protecting the young people from deliberate harm. It also relates to health and safety, meeting the needs of the young people with medical conditions, providing first aid, visits organised by Camborne Town Council, internet or e-safety, appropriate arrangements to ensure security and taking into account the local context.

Additionally, we recognise that Safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as: bullying, including cyberbullying (by text message, on social networking sites etc), peer on peer and prejudice-based bullying, racist and homophobic or transphobic abuse, sexting, substance misuse, issues which may be specific to a local area or population eg gang activity and youth violence and other particular issues affecting children including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, extremist behaviour and radicalisation, forced marriage and modern slavery.

Everyone associated with Camborne Town Council maintains an attitude of "it can happen here" and if they have any concerns as to signs or indicators of abuse, will raise this with the Safeguarding Lead or the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU).

Everyone has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for the young people.

Our recruitment and induction process includes provision of : 1) a copy of this Safeguarding Policy 2) details of the Safeguarding Lead.

Everyone can receive training on request on any aspect of Safeguarding.

Everyone knows how to respond to someone who discloses abuse, or for whom they have a concern and the procedure to be followed in appropriately sharing a concern of possible abuse or a disclosure of abuse.

When organising activities for the young people, we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the third parties we are working with understand their Safeguarding responsibilities and have in place the appropriate policies and procedures.

We shall also ensure that the young people are supervised at all appropriate times by representatives of Camborne Town Council who satisfy the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements for Regulated Activity.

Camborne Town Council operates safer recruitment practices including making sure that statutory duties to undertake required checks on staff or Volunteers who work with children are complied with in line with the DBS requirements for Regulated Activity.

Should we dismiss or remove someone from Camborne Town Council because they have harmed a young person or pose a risk of harm to a young person or would have done so if they had not left, we will report this to the Disclosure and Barring Service and any appropriate professional or regulatory body.

Our Safeguarding policies and procedures will be reviewed and, if necessary, updated every six months.

If a young person makes an allegation or disclosure of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, the representative of Camborne Town Council will:

- Stay calm and listen carefully;
- Reassure the young person that they have done the right thing in telling us;
- Not investigate or ask leading questions;
- Let the young person know that the Safeguarding Lead will need to be told;
- Not promise to keep what they have been told a secret;
- Inform the Safeguarding Lead, as soon as possible; and
- Make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which will be signed and dated.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information sharing is vital to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people. A key factor in many serious case reviews has been a failure by practitioners to record information, to share it, to understand its significance and then take appropriate action.

- We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- We will disclose personal information about a young person on a “need to know” basis only;

- Everyone is aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to Safeguard young people;
- Everyone is aware that they cannot promise to keep secrets which might compromise the safety or well-being of a young person; and
- We undertake to always share our concerns with the MARU, unless to do so could put the young person at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult with the MARU.

Managing Allegations Against Individuals Who Work For Or With Us

We are aware of the possibility of allegations being made against someone who works on behalf of Camborne Town Council or volunteers that are working with or may come into contact with our young people. They can be made by the young person or concerned adults.

Any Safeguarding or Child Protection concern regarding anyone working with or on behalf of Camborne Town Council must be reported to the Safeguarding Lead.

In such circumstances, we will:

- Report the matter to the MARU
- Consider the Safeguarding arrangements for the young person to ensure that they are not in contact with the alleged abuser;
- Consider the rights of the individual concerned for a fair and equal process of investigation;
- Ensure that an appropriate investigatory procedure is followed, including whether it is necessary to suspend that person from working or volunteering for Camborne Town Council until the outcome of any investigation; and
- Advise the DBS and any other appropriate regulatory or professional body where the individual has been dismissed as a result of the allegations or would have been, if they have resigned.

Supporting Staff, Sub-Contractors and Volunteers

We recognise that staff (who we do not currently have as we do not employ anyone), sub-contractors and volunteers working for Camborne Town Council who have become involved in the case of a young person who has suffered harm, or appears likely to suffer harm, may find the situation stressful and upsetting.

We support this by providing an opportunity for them to discuss their anxieties with the Safeguarding Lead or another person, as appropriate.

Our Safeguarding Lead and/or anyone working for or on behalf of Camborne Town Council has access to support and appropriate workshops, courses or meetings as organised or recommended by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Board (CioSSCB), Safeguarding Standards Unit (SSU) or Cornwall Council.

Prevention

We recognise that we can play a significant part in the prevention of harm to the young people participating in Camborne Town Council activities by providing them with an effective line of communication and an ethos of protection.

Camborne Town Council will support the young people in our care by:

- Establishing and maintaining an ethos, understood by everyone, which enables the young people to feel secure and encourages them to talk, knowing that they will be listened to.
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment ensuring that all the young people know that there is someone in the organisation whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Listening and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the Safeguarding of young people.
- We will put our Safeguarding Policy on our website.
- We will make our Safeguarding Policy available to participating schools and/or parents / carers, on request.

Training

- Everyone within Camborne Town Council has been provided with a copy of this Safeguarding Policy.
- The Council & Staff will regularly review training needs and provide appropriate training for anyone as and when requested.

Making a Safeguarding Referral

If any person employed by or working with Camborne Town Council has an immediate Safeguarding concern relating to the report of an incidence of abuse or neglect which they cannot raise with the Safeguarding Lead, they must contact the central referral unit on **0300 123 1116**.

There is an out of hours service available to ensure that urgent situations are responded to appropriately. The service can be contacted on **0300 1234 100**.

Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed in line with local and national guidance/legislation every 6 months.

Signed: _____ on behalf of Camborne Town Council.

Date: