



# SAUNDERSFOOT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Safeguarding Policy. Adopted 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Introduction

We all have a responsibility to make sure that children, young people, and adults at risk are protected and cared for properly. Saundersfoot Community Council recognises that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to its duty to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk.

All children and adults have the right to participate and be safe receiving the services provided for them regardless of age, disability, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. This includes a right to protection from abuse, neglect, and any form of exploitation. This Safeguarding Policy aims to ensure that a consistent approach to safeguarding exists across all Saundersfoot Community Council services.

This policy applies to all community councillors and anyone working for or on behalf of Saundersfoot Community Council, whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity. This policy will be provided, by the Clerk, to all councillors, staff and volunteers of Saundersfoot Community Council.

### Definitions

Children and young people are defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.

A **child/young person at risk** is a child/young person who is:

- I. experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect, or other kinds of harm
- II. has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 states:

- I. an **adult at risk** is an adult who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect,
- II. has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- III. as a result of those needs is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

### Promoting a safe environment

Saundersfoot Community Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and adults at risk that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment. Saundersfoot Community Council does not generally run activities directly for children, young people or adults at risk where they are not supervised by their parents, carers, a teacher, or a local youth worker. Saundersfoot Community Council will establish a safe environment within the outdoor playgrounds under its control which meet stringent European play equipment and playground surfacing regulations. Saundersfoot Community Council will ensure that young people and adults at risk are welcomed to meetings and that they are made to feel safe and secure within the environment. All community councillors are encouraged to undertake formal Safeguarding Training. All councillors, staff and volunteers should be aware of their responsibilities to raise concerns in respect of any safeguarding matter and will not be penalised for doing so.





## Responsibilities and Procedures

All suspicions and allegations of abuse reported, verbally or in writing, to any Councillor or Council employee will be taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately. All staff, volunteers and elected members of the Community Council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.

The **Clerk** will act as the Safeguarding Officer.

The Safeguarding Officer's duties will include the following:

- I. Ensuring that before any Saundersfoot Community Council organised event with children or adults at risk, participants are briefed accordingly.
- II. Ensuring that elected members of the Community Council are aware of the risks they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties.
- III. Ensuring that whilst members of the Community Council are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of their duty to safeguard adults and children at risk.
- IV. To distribute the Safeguarding Policy, either electronically or in hard copy, to all councillors, staff and volunteers of Saundersfoot Community Council.

The Clerk will know whom to contact at Pembrokeshire County Council:

Adult Safeguarding Team: 01437 776056

Social Services Out of Hours: 0300 333 2222

[www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-and-children](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-and-children)

In an emergency, call 999

NSPCC: 0808 8005000

Childline: 0800 1111

Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 8010800

Care Inspectorate Wales 0300 7900126

## Safer Recruitment

Saundersfoot Community Council will seek to recruit all paid staff and volunteers using appropriate procedures, safeguards, and checks. We will determine which roles are subject to a barring checklist, which roles are eligible for enhanced DBS checks only, and take up references for posts and volunteer roles in accordance with the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (as amended). We will review our recruitment procedures in response to changes in legislation and systems external to our organisation e.g. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

## Monitoring

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

Adopted by Saundersfoot Community Council:

Date

5th January 2023

Chair of Saundersfoot Community Council:

D. Ludlow

Cllr Dean Ludlow

