



Malmesbury Town Council

Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. Malmesbury Town Council (MTC) takes its responsibility very seriously to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who use our premises and services and set the principles we expect from our staff, Councillors and volunteers.

2. Definitions:

- **A child or young person** is anyone under the age of 18 years. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.
- **A vulnerable adult** is someone who by reason of mental or other disability, age, or illness is unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. An adult for the purpose of this policy is anyone over 18 years of age.
- **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults as defined for the purposes of this policy:**
 - protecting children and adults from maltreatment, or harm
 - preventing impairment of children's and adult's health or development
 - ensuring that children and adults are participating in experiences, using services, or facilities consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and provision
 - taking action to enable all children and adults to have the best life chances, or user experience.
- **Abuse:** A form of maltreatment of a child or adult. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child or adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children or adults may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.
- **Physical abuse:** A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child or adult. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child or dependent adult.

- **Emotional abuse:** The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child or adult such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's or adults' emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child or adult that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the or adults opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children or adults. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's or adults' developmental capability, as well as hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children or adults to frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children or adults. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child or adult, though it may occur alone.
- **Sexual abuse:** Involves forcing or enticing a child, or adult young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children or adults in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children or adults to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child or adult in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.
- **Neglect:** The persistent failure to meet a child's or adult's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's or adult's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:
 - provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
 - protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
 - ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers);
 - ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
 It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's or adult's basic emotional needs.
- **Substantial Access:** This policy defines substantial access as;
 - Where an individual is regularly caring for, training or supervising a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
 - Where an individual has sole charge of children, young people and venerable adults.

3. To whom this policy applies

This Policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of MTC whether paid, voluntary or commissioned, all hirers and users of our facilities, or services, or those within the remit of the duties and responsibilities of the Council.

4. Promoting a Safe Environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, MTC wishes to promote a safeguarding culture in its premises and activity areas. We will achieve this by:

- a. Providing safe facilities and undertaking regular health and safety assessments
- b. Ensuring that employees, Councillors, volunteers and group leaders of activities are aware of our safeguarding culture
- c. Creating and maintaining an ant-bullying environment
- d. Requiring all employees, Councillors, volunteers and group leaders of activities are aware of the safeguarding culture, and report or make appropriate interventions
- e. Provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance
- f. Recruit all staff and volunteer safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- g. Requiring hirers will follow good practice procedures in relation to Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding

5. Hiring of facilities to groups for use with Children, young people or vulnerable adults

When group leaders have a regular and substantial access to children, young people and vulnerable adults, and parents/carers are not present MTC will require the hirer to:

1. Have membership of a National Governing Body (NGB) or similarly recognised body.
2. Have public liability insurance
3. Have a suitable safeguarding child, young people and vulnerable adults' policy.
4. Ensure group leaders have valid DBS checks
5. Do Risk assessments for individual activities
6. Have a register for use in emergencies with any details of allergies or medical conditions
7. Ensure group leaders have first aid provision
8. Notify MTC of any safeguarding concerns or alerts.

MTC reserves the right to refuse a booking if the conditions above are not met.

6. Hiring of Facilities for provision involving children and young people under the age of 18yrs.

Hirers must ensure adequate adult supervision must be provided. Lone working should be avoided. We recommend the following adult to child ratios as the minimum numbers to help keep children and staff protected.

- 0 - 2 years - 1 adult to 3 children
- 2 - 3 years - 1 adult to 4 children
- 4 - 8 years - 1 adult to 6 children
- 9 - 12 years - 1 adult to 8 children
- 13 - 17 years - 1 adult to 10 children

7. Bar hire, and alcohol Supply

The bar, or any other part of the Town Hall, may only be hired and operated within the stipulations of the Public Licence (Governed by the Licensing Act 2003) and Premises Licence. Where a hirer makes use of the bar, and alcohol is provided (whether sold or provided free), and where people under the age of 18 are present; the Council requires both the hirers, and licence holder to ensure that alcohol is not supplied to those under 18yrs; either by way of direct supply from the bar, as part of the event/ hirer's proceedings, or by proxy (by way of other users or guests). It is the hirers responsibility to safeguard against the supply of alcohol to those under 18years.

In the event of the evidential supply of alcohol to those under 18years by a hirer or licence holder the MTC staff will intervene to prevent this practice, if necessary calling a halt to the booking at no loss to the MTC.

MTC events that involve alcohol, will ensure in their event management plan the of alcohol to these under 18 years is safeguarded against.

8. Cinema (Movies @ Malmesbury)

- All provision outlined in this policy is relevant to the safe operation of the cinema service.
- Specifically, reference should be made to point 6 in this policy regarding staff ratios. This should be adhered with the exception of Children aged 13-15years where the details of a responsible adult who can act as emergency contact should be provided for prior to entry of the cinema.
- May need to consider introducing a 'parental consent' system which can be done on site if needed – which if adopted means the age limit could be lowered (above)
- Cinema staffing ratios should be sufficient and show plans that lone working with children is avoided.
- Bar/alcohol guidance applies when the sale of alcohol is offered.
- The cinema should have a designated Safeguarding Person who can monitor safeguarding practices and liaise with the Town Clerk on allegations or practice issues

9. Making a complaint / raising an alert

MTC Safeguarding Officer: is Richard Spencer- Williams (Town Clerk)

Whistle blowers are given protection under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

Children

If there is a believe a child or young person is at risk of significant harm, neglect or injury, report your concerns to the;

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 456 0108. Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.00pm and Friday 8.45am - 4.00pm

Out of Hours Service on 0300 456 0100 Monday to Thursday 5.00pm - midnight and Friday 4pm – midnight; Weekends / Bank Holidays 9am - midnight

Phones are diverted to the Social Work Standby Service from midnight - 9.00am (7 days a week).

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-contact>

If there is immediate danger, phone the police or emergency services on 999

If you have significant safeguarding concerns about **someone who is working or volunteering with children and young people**, contact the Designated Officer for Allegations (DOFA) on 0300 456 0108 via dofaservice@wiltshire.gov.uk

Adults

If you have concerns about a vulnerable adult contact Adult MASH:

Telephone: 0300 456 0111 textphone:01225 712501

Email: adviceandcontact@wiltshire.gov.uk

Monday to Thursday: 08:30-17:20

Friday: 08:30 – 16:20

IF you need urgent help or advice outside of these hours, you can call 0300 456 0100

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-contact>

<http://www.wiltshiresab.org.uk/>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592101/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_20170213.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/alcohol-licensing>