

# Brigg Town Council Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Brigg Town Council
<b>Address</b>	S04 The Angel Brigg DN20 8LD
<b>Telephone</b>	07584 315971
<b>Date Policy Agreed</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025 Min ref 25/043a
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	July 2026
<b>Signature</b>	P Smith
<b>Name and telephone number of Designated Protection Person</b>	Cllr Sharon Riggall 07368 902530
<b>Name and telephone number of Deputy Designated Protection Person</b>	Cllr Rob Waltham 07977987903

## 1. Policy statement on safeguarding children

The values held by Brigg Town Council are:

Brigg Town Council recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse. Brigg Town Council takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people. We will:

- respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse and neglect; including child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, domestic abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour;
- provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns;
- have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse and neglect.

## 2. The policy

Brigg Town Council recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and/or neglect. They may also be victims of child exploitation, domestic abuse including coercive control and other types of abuse such as Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and/or Female Genital Mutilation. Accordingly Brigg Town Council has adopted the following policy guidelines. The policy sets out agreed guidelines for responding to allegations of abuse/neglect, including those made against staff and volunteers. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with North Lincolnshire Children's MARS Policies and Procedures. They will be kept under review and be supported by appropriate training.

The policy applies to all staff and volunteers who act on behalf of **Brigg Town Council** and who work with children. Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person, in respect of safeguarding or their deputy of concerns relating to safeguarding children. The designated person should decide if the concerns should be communicated to North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the Police. However all staff and volunteers can contact North Lincolnshire Children's Services directly if necessary.

### 3. **Definitions of Abuse (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)**

A concern should be raised if any of the following circumstances have or are happening to a child:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Neglect
- Domestic abuse including controlling or coercive behaviour

<b>Physical abuse</b>	A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocation or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child
<b>Emotional abuse</b>	The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child 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 child 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. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone

<b>Sexual abuse</b>	Involves forcing or enticing a child or 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 in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child 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
<b>Child sexual exploitation</b>	Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victims needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
<b>Child criminal exploitation</b>	As set out in the Serious Violence Strategy, published by the Home Office, where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
<b>Neglect</b>	<p>The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's mental and physical 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);</li> <li>• protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;</li> <li>• ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or</li> <li>• ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment</li> </ul> <p>It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.</p>

<p><b>Domestic abuse including controlling or coercive behaviour</b></p>	<p>Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. Domestic abuse is not limited to physical acts of violence or threatening behaviour, and can include emotional, psychological, controlling or coercive behaviour, sexual and/or economic abuse. Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and adolescent to parent violence. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. Domestic abuse has a significant impact on children and young people. Children may experience domestic abuse directly, as victims in their own right, or indirectly due to the impact the abuse has on others such as the non-abusive parent. Also known as coercive control, the use of control and coercion in relationships is a form of domestic abuse and, since December 2015, a criminal offence. It is described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour; and</li> <li>• Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim</li> </ul> <p>Coercive control is a form of abuse that involves multiple behaviours and tactics which reinforce each other and are used to isolate, manipulate and regulate the victim. This pattern of abuse creates high levels of anxiety and fear. This has a significant impact on children and young people, both directly, as victims in their own right, and indirectly due to the impact the abuse has on the non-abusive parent. Children may also be forced to participate in controlling or coercive behaviour towards the parent who is being abused.</p>
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#### 4. What you should do if you suspect abuse

- a. You must report concerns as soon as possible to **Cllr Sharon Riggall** Designated Child Protection Person on **07368 902530** who is nominated by **Brigg Town Council** to act on their behalf in referring concerns or allegations of abuse or neglect to North Lincolnshire Children's Services. In the absence of the designated person, the matter should be brought to the attention of the deputy designated person Cllr **Rob Waltham** on **07977 987903**. If it is an emergency, and the designated person(s) cannot be contacted, then North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the police should be contacted at the numbers given below. For further information, see the [One Family Approach - Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire](#) document and [Children's MARS Policy and Procedures for Assessing Need and Providing Help](#)

- b. If the allegations relate to the designated person, then the deputy designated person, North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the Police should be contacted.
- c. Concerns or allegations should not be discussed with anyone, other than those named above.
- d. It is the right of any individual to make direct referrals to North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the police if they have concerns or an allegation has been made. However this policy should be followed where possible.
- e. Allegations against staff or volunteers will be investigated following local procedures. The Local Authority Designated Officer should be contacted and further information can be found at Children's MARS Procedures for Managing Allegations Against People who work with children

## 5. Recording

- a. Write down exactly what the child has said in their own words. Write down the conversation held, where it was held, when and what was happening beforehand. Alternatively write down what you have observed, details of any witnesses, location, and your specific concern if you believe that a child has been abused or neglected. Record dates and times of the events and when the record was made. Keep all notes secure.
- b. Report your discussion as soon as possible to the designated person or the deputy designated person.
- c. If an allegation has been made about a staff member or volunteer, write down exactly what you have been told or have witnessed including what is outlined in the 'What should you do if you suspect abuse' above if applicable

## 6. Maintenance and security of records

<b>Retention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For concerns raised and acted upon, a record should be kept until the child is 25 years old.</li> <li>For concerns not acted upon, a record should be kept for 6 years after the child has ceased association with the organisation.</li> <li>For concerns regarding staff or volunteers (even if they are no longer associated with the organisation) they should be kept on their personal file until retirement age 67 years old or for 10 years whichever is longer.</li> </ul>
<b>Storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documents are stored in a locked fire proof cabinet. Key kept by Clerk. Electronic documents are kept on password protected laptop and computer.</li> </ul>
<b>Destruction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic documents deleted and paper documents are shredded.</li> </ul>

## 7. Volunteer recruitment

Brigg Town Council does not engage volunteers to act on its behalf.

## 8. eSafeguarding and acceptable use policy for electronic equipment

- The clerk to the Council is the only officer with access to Brigg TC IT equipment. IT equipment and all electronic equipment is subject to the Brigg TC IT Policy

- Clerk is responsible for Facebook page
- If photographs are taken at any event permission is always sought before posting to social media or Brigg Times newspaper.

## 9. Whistle blowing procedures

It may be very hard to report a concern but as with all other difficulties people will come across, the safety and protection of a child at risk must be the priority in any decision that is made.

- Whistle blowing procedures – in first instance contact Cllr Sharon Riggall, 07368902530, or Cllr Rob Waltham 07977 987903 or Clerk to Brigg TC 07584 315971.
- Brigg Town Council is committed to ensuring that all individuals have the ability to raise genuine concerns in good faith without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

## 10. Contact information

	Name	Telephone Number
<b>Main Contact for the Organisation</b>	Clerk to Brigg Town Council	07584 315971
<b>Designated Protection Person</b>	Cllr Sharon Riggall	07368 902530
<b>Deputy Designated Protection Person</b>	Cllr Rob Waltham	07977 987903
<b>National or support body for the organisation</b>	ERNLLCA	01652 661617
<b>North Lincolnshire Children Services</b> Church Square House 30-40 High Street Scunthorpe DN15 6XQ		01724 296500 or 01724 296555 (extended hours)
<b>Police Non Emergency</b>		101
<b>Police Emergency</b>		999
<b>Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)</b> Independent Reviewing Service		01724 298293