

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council Events

## Safeguarding Policy

**Safeguarding children and vulnerable persons at Dartmoor Forest Parish Council events.**

### **Definitions**

A person is defined as a child, legally, until their eighteenth birthday. They remain the responsibility of their parents/carers/guardians, even if that person is not present at the event.

A vulnerable adult/person could be considered as a person who is, or maybe in need of care services because of mental or physical disability, age or illness or they are not able to take care of themselves or are unable to protect themselves against harm or exploitation.

### **Who is the policy for?**

This policy applies to Councillors, Dartmoor Forest Parish Council staff organizing events, and volunteers assisting Parish Council events.

### **Aim of the policy**

The aim of the policy is to provide procedures for promoting safeguarding, preventing abuse, and protecting children, vulnerable adults, volunteers, and staff.

### **Responsibilities:**

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council (DFPC) takes safeguarding seriously whilst recognizing safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

DFPC is responsible for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults/persons attending its events.

DFPC will:

- Ensure its staff, volunteers and Councillors are clear about their individual behaviour and responsibilities regarding the safety and enjoyment of visitors particularly children and vulnerable adults through its event briefings.
- Make sure the event areas are safe and promote an enjoyable experience.
- Ensure that all suspicions and or allegations of abuse will be properly investigated and dealt with appropriately and quickly and referred to the relevant agencies.

- DFPC will ensure all volunteers, Councillors and Staff are aware of signs and symptoms of possible safeguarding issues for example where children/young adults are frequently unaccompanied at events.
- DFPC will ensure all volunteers, Councillors and Staff are aware of its safeguarding procedures at events. This is the Parish Clerk's responsibility at each event.
- All volunteers, Councillors and Staff have a responsibility to maintain appropriate standards of behaviour and to report lapses in these standards to the Parish Clerk.
- All volunteers, Councillors and Staff should maintain confidentiality, except in circumstances where to do so would place the individual or another individual at risk of harm.

**Dartmoor Forest Parish Council (DFPC) wishes to protect its staff, volunteers, and Councillors from any unfair allegations at the same time as empowering them to be able to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults, so it advises them to:**

- Approach any children or vulnerable adult in apparent distress and offer help but they should not be alone when this is done and should be clearly visible in the public space. Try to ensure a DBS checked member of staff/volunteer/councillor is present at the time and notify the Parish Clerk as soon as possible.
- Seek assistance from other volunteers and Councillors in any situation involving children or vulnerable adults so 1:1 contact is minimized.
- Be aware of the danger from others and explore situations that seem suspicious.
- Be aware of unaccompanied children.
- Report any suspicion of inappropriate conduct immediately to the Parish Clerk.

**Any safeguarding concerns at events should be documented.**