



## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Members of Beaminster Town Council recognise that the protection and safety of children and young people is everyone's responsibility. This Policy establishes the roles and responsibilities of members, staff and volunteers in relation to the protection of children, with whom they come into contact through their work.

In relation to child protection the approach the Town Council will take is based on two key principles:-

- the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial or ethnic origin, religious belief and sexual identity have a right to protection from harm and reflects the principles of both UK legislation, guidance and other relevant instructions.

It is the responsibility of every member of the Town Council to make sure that all staff for whom they are responsible are aware of and understand the importance of this Policy and the related documents. They must also make sure that any contractors, agents or other representatives whom they engage to undertake duties on their behalf, which may involve them in contact with children, understand and comply with them, as appropriate.

An important element of good practice begins with the recruitment, selection, transfer and posting of staff to positions affording substantial access to children. This includes carrying out appropriate 'statutory' checks and taking references, which refer to the candidates' suitability to have substantial access to children.

In posts that involve substantial access to children, personnel will be required to undergo a mandatory Criminal Records Bureau check to ensure their suitability for work involving access to children. Checks will also be required for volunteers acting on behalf of the Town Council.

Christine Bright  
Town Clerk

Adopted by Beaminster Town Council at a meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2019