**HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**(Westwoodside Playing Field Association)**

**Child Protection Policy**

This Child Protection Policy has been drawn up in line with North Lincolnshire Council’s (NLC’s) Child Protection Procedures and has the endorsement of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

Haxey Parish Council/Westwoodside Playing Fields Association (WPFA) recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse. Haxey Parish Council/WPFA 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 provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns.
* Have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
* Maintain good links with statutory child care authorities.

### THE POLICY

Haxey Parish Council/WPFA recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of neglect, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Accordingly Haxey Parish Council/WPFA has adopted the following policy guidelines. The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against staff and volunteers. Haxey Parish Council/WPFA recognises the need to build constructive links with the local child care agencies. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the North Lincolnshire Child Protection 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 Haxey Parish Council/WPFAand who come directly into contact with children. Organisations who use the facilities controlled by Haxey Parish Council/WPFA are to have a suitable written and published Child Protection Policy in force that reflects fully the Parish Council/WPFA policy and actions set out in this document. Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person in respect of child protection or their deputy of concerns relating to safeguarding children. The designated person must decide if the concerns should be communicated to children and family services or the police.

## LSCB VALUES

* Families receive timely and responsive support at the earliest point of intervention.
* A child has the right to grow up in its own family and be supported where it is safe to do so.
* We believe that families in need of intervention can make changes.
* To ensure our staff are fully equipped with a wide range of communication and engagement skill.
* Children and young people should be supported to thrive in their own family networks.
* We will be honest and clear with families about concerns and what needs to happen.
* Every child should have stability and permanency in their lives.
* Children have a right to be safe and protected and supported to keep themselves safe.
* We will be child focused in our work and ensure that staff are competent in communicating and engaging with children.
* Vulnerable children will be a priority for all services and be involved in the decisions that affect their lives.
* Children and young people will be valued and respected as individuals, whilst remaining alert to abuse and neglect.
* We acknowledge risk in safeguarding children and strive to be fair, proportionate and proactive in maintaining and promoting children to live with their families.
* We will not seek to apportion blame when things have not gone as well as they could, but we will learn from each other.
* Adults working with children and families will be tenacious and committed and not give up.

Everyone who works in any way with children has the responsibility to protect them from harm. Therefore, we believe that all children in our care should be safe and prevented from coming to any harm. In order to achieve this, the Council/Association will consider the issues related to child protection.

* Paid workers and volunteers will go through a vetting procedure to check their suitability for working with children.
* The Council/Association will appoint a designated person to be responsible for these issues on their behalf.
* Training is to be undertaken in basic Child Protection procedures by Council/Association Members and most importantly by the designated person.
* If you have concerns that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering, significant harm, that person has a duty to share their concerns with the designated person, who will take the appropriate action.
* All matters concerning child protection issues will be treated with confidentiality.
* The Council/Association will develop codes of conduct for any relevant activities they organise.
* Everyone working with children will have copies of the relevant codes of conduct.

It is not the responsibility of our organisation to undertake enquiries.

**Any referrals should be made through the designated person.**

This Policy was adopted by the Council/Association on the 26 April 2016.

# ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting: by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

## DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE [TAKEN FROM HM GOVT WORKING TOGETHER 2013]

### PHYSCIAL ABUSE

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting; by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or

scalding, drowning, suffocating, 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.

### EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is 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 children 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 the 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 cyberbullying), 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.

### SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part insexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or notthe 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-penetrativeacts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. Theymay also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, orin the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouragingchildren to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child inpreparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solelyperpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as canother children.

### NEGLECT

Neglect is 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 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); or

● ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

* It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

1. You must report concerns as soon as possible to the Clerk to the Parish Council, Ms Deb Hotson, telephone numbers: Mobile: 0784 220 1877

Land Line: 01427 752228, who is the designated child protection person, nominated by Haxey Parish Council/WPFA to act on their behalf in referring allegations of suspicions of neglect or abuse to the statutory authorities. In the absence of the designated person, the matter should be brought to the attention of the deputy designated person, Chairman of the WPFA, Mr Richard Carter phone number ……...If it is an emergency, and the designated persons cannot be contacted, then children and family services or the police should be contacted at the numbers given below.

2. If the suspicions relate to the designated person, then the deputy or NLC children and family services should be contacted.

1. Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone, other than those named above.

4. It is the right of any individual to make direct referrals to the child protection agencies. We would hope that an individual would use this procedure. However, if you feel that the organisation has not responded appropriately to your concerns, it is open to you to contact the child protection agencies direct.

## ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT

If a child has an injury which may be a non-accidental injury, or symptoms of neglect and a referral is to be made then:

a. The designated person should contact child and family services. If there has been a deliberate injury or where there are concerns about the child's safety the child's parents should not be contacted before first consulting with children and family services.

b. Where emergency medical attention is necessary it should be sought immediately. The designated person should inform the doctor of any suspicion of abuse.

c. If a referral is being made without the parent's knowledge and non urgent medical treatment is required, children and family services should be informed. Otherwise, speak to the parent/carer and suggest medical attention be sought for the child.

d. If appropriate, the parent/carer should be encouraged to seek help from the Children and Family Services Department prior to a referral being made. If they fail to do so in situations of real concern the designated person will contact children and family services directly for advice.

## ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations of sexual abuse the designated person will:

a. Contact the Children Services or Police Child Protection Team directly. The designated person will not speak to the parents.

b. Under no circumstances should the designated person, or any other member of the organisation, attempt to carry out any investigation into the allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse. The role of the designated person is to collect the exact details of the allegations or suspicion and to provide this information to the child protection agencies that will investigate the matter under the Children Act 1989.

## WHAT TO DO ONCE A CHILD HAS TALKED TO YOU ABOUT ABUSE

a. Make a note immediately of what the child has said, writing down exactly what the child has said, write down what you said in reply, when they said it and what was happening immediately beforehand. 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.

c. Once a child has talked about abuse the designated person must consider if it is safe for a child to return home to a potentially abusive situation. On a rare occasion it might be necessary to take immediate action to contact children and family services and/or the police to discuss putting into effect safety measures for the child so that they do not return home.

d. You may include details of where and how child protection concerns will be recorded and stored.

e. Allegations against staff or volunteers will be investigated following local procedures. Where there are concerns that a child has been put in danger of abuse, or has suffered abuse owing to the actions of a member of staff or volunteer the Local Authority Designated Officer or the police will be contacted. Details of any allegation which has not resulted in a referral will be kept securely in the same way as described in 4 above.

**HOW WE ENSURE SAFE STAFF/ VOLUNTEERS**

* We will identify that there is a position for work and a job description will be produced.
* We will advertise the position.
* We will follow Safer Recruitment principles and procedures.
* We will take up references and ensure that we speak to the referees to confirm details.
* We will undertake relevant Checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service and follow up any information pertaining to the person and their check. [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/DBS](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/DBS)
* We will undertake an induction, supply supervision and relevant training.
* We will ensure understanding of all the organisations policies and procedures to support good, safe practice.

## E SAFEGUARDING AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

## Haxey Parish Counci/WPFA premises are equipped with a broadband WiFi system that allows access by authorized personnel to the internet. The system is password protected and access to the WIFI is kept under lock and key. Access to the WiFi system is currently restricted to those personnel with an agreed need. Haxey Parish Council has a website controlled by the Clerk to the Parish Council and has no Social Media accounts. WPFA has a website and controlled access to Social Media.

## WHISTLE BLOWING PROCEDURES

## Haxey Parish Council/WPFA fully supports the availability of a “Whistle Blowing” capability. Contact within NLC: Provide details pertaining to your registering body, Voluntary Umbrella body or contact within the Local Authority.

CONTACT DETAILS:

The Foreman Carter Centre

Westwoodside Playing Field

Westwoodside

North Lincolnshire

DN9 2DX

**DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION PERSON:**

Ms Deb Hotson - : Mobile: 0784 220 1877; Land Line: 01427 752228

DEPUTY DESIGNATED PERSON:

Mr Richard Carter – Mobile: 07771 828727

**ANY NATIONAL OR SUPPORT BODY FOR YOUR ORGANISATION**

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CHILDREN SERVICES, CHURCH SQUARE HOUSE, CHURCH SQUARE, SCUNTHORPE DN15 6XQ 01724 296500 OR 01724 296555 [AFTER OFFICE HOURS]**

### POLICE CHILD PROTECTION UNIT

### EMERGENCY SERVICES 999 OR 101

### LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER 01724 298293

### LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD TRAINING COORDINATOR 01724 296654

**LSCB Safeguarding Principles**

* We will work in the best interests of children and young people.
* Children and young people will be listened to and we will hear what they have to say.
* We will support children and families at the earliest opportunity appropriate with meeting their needs.
* We will respect the individuality of each child, young person and their family.
* We will assess children, young people and families’ needs using the agreed assessment processes, and we will undertake these assessments in partnership with children and their families.
* Professionals will collaborate with each other and work in partnership with children, young people and their families to deliver support.
* We will work to improve outcomes for children and young people.
* We will record and share information appropriately with children and families so that they receive consistent responses from professionals from all agencies.
* We will be open to learning and be willing to develop responding to best evidence and best practice.
* We will work in an open and honest manner with children, young people and their families and each other.

## TRAINING

For details of any available Courses or for further information please contact:

North Lincs Local Safeguarding Children Board on

01724 296654

A full copy of North Lincolnshire LSCB procedures are available for viewing in libraries, schools, Social Services departments