DRAFT CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Name of Organisation	Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council
Address	18 Woodgarr avenue Keadby
Date Policy Agreed	3rd April 2020
Date of Next Review	April 2021
Signature	R N Hayes

POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

The values held by Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council are:

Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse. Keadby with Althorpe Parish 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
- Provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns
- Have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse and neglect

THE POLICY

Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and/or neglect. Accordingly, Keadby with Althorpe Parish 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 Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (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 Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council and who work with children. 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 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.

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE (Working Together 2018)

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

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse (including Child Sexual Exploitation)
- Neglect

PHYSCIAL ABUSE

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.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

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 exploration 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

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.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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.

NEGLECT

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 caregivers); 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 (Name) Designated Child Protection Person on (Phone Number) who is nominated by Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council to act on their behalf in referring allegations of suspicions 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 (Name) on (Phone Number). 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 *Helping Children and Families (Threshold Document 2016-2020)* and Children's MARS Policy and Procedures Assessing Need and Providing Help.
2. If the suspicions relate to the designated person, then the deputy, North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the Police should be contacted.
3. 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 North Lincolnshire Children's Services. However, this policy should be followed where possible.

RECORDING

1. 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.
2. Report your discussion as soon as possible to the designated person.
3. Allegations against staff or volunteers will be investigated following local procedures. For further information see the Children's MARS Managing Allegations procedures

MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council will retain any records relating to child welfare securely and the records after the minimum statutory period

E SAFEGUARDING AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

The Clerk of Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council uses a laptop for access to the internet for day to day Parish Council works access to email

WHISTLE BLOWING PROCEDURES

The Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council expects its employees, elected members, contractors or volunteers that have concerns about safeguarding of children encountered within the Council or its commissioned services to come forward and voice those concerns without fear of reprisal

CONTACT INFORMATION

Senior Child Protection Officer Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council
Patrick Hornsby
Chairman Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council
11 Main Street
Althorpe
DN17 3HT
Phone: 01724 783364
Mobile: 07545996603

Deputy Child Protection Officer Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council
Geraldine Haynes
18 Woodgarr Avenue
Keadby
DN17 3BZ
Phone: 01724782229
Mobile: 0500702506

National Association of Local Councils
109 Great Russell street
London
WC1B 3LD
Telephone: 020 7637 1865

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

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101

POLICE EMERGENCY 999

LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER, INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE 01724 298293