

# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

## CRANBROOK & SISSINGHURST PARISH COUNCIL

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The welfare of the child is paramount

All children, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse

#### 1. Policy

No member of the Council, staff or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children unless appropriately vetted.

##### Procedure

All members of the Council, staff or other volunteers will be made aware of this policy and the relevant vetting procedures. Should checks become necessary, they will be undertaken in compliance with the Protection of Children Act 1999, the Children Act 1989 and Part V of the Police Act 1997.

#### 2. Policy

All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.

##### Procedure

The Clerk, or in her absence the Deputy Clerk, will be responsible for Child Protection Matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection lead agency.

#### 3. Policy

All councillors, staff and volunteers will be required to become aware of Child Protection issues.

##### Procedure

Copies of the relevant Acts and Department of Health guidelines will, **if necessary**, be held by the Council as reference material for volunteers. Relevant Child Protection training for councillors, staff or other volunteers will be encouraged.

#### 4. Policy

The policies and procedures will be regularly reviewed.

##### Procedures

An annual review will take place to allow for any required up-date of policies and or procedures. New councillors, staff and other volunteers will be provided with an understanding of their responsibilities in matters of child protection.

#### 5. Policy

Members of the local community who use the facilities provided by the Council should be aware of the Child Protection policies as adopted by the Council.

##### Procedure

All hirers who wish to use the Vestry Hall, Addison Room, Council Chamber or any other property owned by the Council for activities which include children and vulnerable adults other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family only, will be asked to produce a copy of their Child Protection Policy.

**Adopted 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010**