

# Ross-on-Wye Town Council

## Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Policy

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Ross-on-Wye Town Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

The Town Council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons, in that:

- the welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount;
- all children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse;
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
- all staff, volunteers and elected Members of the Council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer;
- no staff, volunteers and elected Members are to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred.

Councillors, volunteers and other members of staff will not be subject to DBS checks unless there is a change in their council duties which requires regular contact with children and vulnerable people.

Ross-on-Wye Town Council has a 'duty of care' to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes including risk assessment and health & safety practices.

Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff or Councillor must be referred immediately to the Town Clerk who will refer the matter to Social Services at Herefordshire Council for investigation.

Ross-on-Wye Town Council Staff or Members must refer any contravention of this policy; they must not carry out any investigations themselves.

*December 2016*