



Friends of Par Beach

Working hard for Par Beach and its Environment

Children and Young Persons Protection Policy

Within the area of child and young person protection it is vital that all volunteers know what to do if they are concerned about a child or young person. It is equally important that parents/carers and young people themselves are aware that the organisation takes the safety and welfare of children/young people into consideration in every activity that is undertaken.

Definition.

Children and Young Persons are people who are under 18 years of age.

Statement.

Friends of Par Beach is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young persons. It recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children and young persons from harm, abuse and exploitation. Friends of Par Beach acknowledges its duty to act appropriately and volunteers will endeavour to work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children and young persons.

In implementing this child/young person protection policy Friends of Par Beach will:

- Ensure that all volunteers understand their legal and moral responsibility to protect children and young persons from harm, abuse and exploitation;
- Ensure that all volunteers understand their responsibility to work at all times towards maintaining high standards of practice;
- Ensure that all volunteers understand their duty to report concerns that arise about a child or young person, or a volunteer's conduct towards a child/young person, to the organisation's named person for child protection;
- Ensure that the named person understands his/her responsibility to refer any child protection concerns to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. Police and/or Social Services);
- Ensure that any procedures relating to the conduct of volunteers are implemented in a consistent and equitable manner;
- Ensure that parents/carers have access to all guidelines and procedures;
- Endeavour to keep up-to-date with national developments relating to the welfare and protection of children and young people and where necessary arrange for DBS checks to be carried out.

These procedures have been designed to ensure the welfare and protection of any child and/or young person accessing the events provided by Friends of Par Beach. The procedures recognise that child protection can be a very difficult subject for volunteers to deal with. However Friends of Par Beach is committed to the belief that protecting children and young persons is everybody's responsibility and therefore the aim here is to provide guidelines that will enable all volunteers to act appropriately if any concerns arise in respect of a child/young person.

Friends of Par Beach has a commitment to ensuring that all volunteers have a basic awareness of what can constitute child abuse.

Friends of Par Beach has an appointed individual who is responsible for dealing with any child protection concerns. In their absence, a deputy will always be available for volunteers to consult with. The named persons for Child Protection within **Friends of Par Beach** are:

- Named Person for Child Protection: **Phil Gadd**
- Home telephone number: **01726 817396**
- Mobile number: **07776 077726**

- Deputy Name of contact person: **Jules Jonklaas**
- Home telephone number: **01726 812700**

The role and responsibilities of the named person(s) are:

- To ensure that all volunteers are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they are concerned that a child/young person may be subject to abuse.
- Ensure that any concerns about a child/young person are acted on, clearly recorded, referred on where necessary and, followed up to ensure the issues are addressed.
- The Named Person(s) will record any incidents in relation to a child/young person or breach of Child Protection procedures. This will be kept in a secure place and its contents will be confidential.

Stages to follow if there are worries about a child or young person.

Friends of Par Beach volunteers will:

- Initially talk to a child/young person about what you are observing. It is okay to ask questions, for example: "I've noticed that you don't appear yourself today, is everything okay? But never use leading questions;
- Listen carefully to what the child/young person has to say and take it seriously;
- Never investigate or take sole responsibility for a situation where a Child/young person makes a disclosure;
- Always explain to children and young persons that any information they have given will have to be shared with others;
- Notify the organisation's Named Person for Child Protection;
- Record what was said as soon as possible after any disclosure;
- Respect confidentiality and file documents securely.

Chairman's Signature:



Adopted on: 2nd June 2015

Reviewed date: 2nd August 2017