



## GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR

# Safeguarding Statement

## 1. Introduction

Gillingham Town Council staff and councillors do not work directly with children or vulnerable adults as part of their roles. However, while performing duties in the community, concerns may occur.

The purpose of this document is to ensure that staff and councillors understand how to report a safeguarding concern.

## 2. Recognising Abuse

### What is Abuse?

Abuse is when someone does something to somebody which damages their quality of life or puts them at risk of harm. It may be deliberate or unintentional.

Abuse takes many forms and includes:

Type of abuse	Examples
Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hitting, injuring or restraining</li><li>• Threatening, intimidating or humiliating</li><li>• Sexual attention or activity that is not wanted</li><li>• Keeping someone on their own</li></ul>
Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not giving the correct medicine</li><li>• Not providing food or clothing</li><li>• Not arranging the right care</li></ul>
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stealing or misusing money or property</li><li>• Pressure relating to wills or inheritance</li></ul>
Domestic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Violence</li></ul>
Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treating someone less favourably because of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, disability or sexual orientation</li></ul>

## Signs of Abuse

There are many possible signs of abuse, none being conclusive on their own. Examples include:

- Unexplained injury/weight loss/cuts and bruises/dirtiness
- Changes in behaviour
- Depression/low self-esteem
- Lack of self-care/dehydration/abnormal eating pattern
- Harm to self
- Obsessive behaviour
- Bills not being paid
- An overly critical or disrespectful carer who may bully or undermine
- Isolation from usual network of friends, family or community

## Radicalisation and extremism

Radicalisation is the process by which someone comes to believe or support extremist ideologies that are associated with terrorist groups. Extremist views can be political, religious or ideological. In some cases, radicalisation can lead to involvement in terrorist groups or acts.

## 3. Reporting Concerns

If you are concerned that an adult, child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, and you believe it requires urgent action, call the police on 999.

You must not attempt to investigate abuse yourself, confront anyone who is allegedly responsible for abuse or tell them that allegations have been made about them.

Safeguarding allegations or concerns must be reported at the earliest possible opportunity and at least within 24 hours.

Reports regarding adults are made to the Dorset Council Adult Access Team. Reports regarding children are made to the Dorset Council Children's Advice and Duty Service (ChAD). Contact details are available from this link: [Report a safeguarding concern - tasks and guides \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/childrens-advice-and-duty-service)

If you believe that someone is at risk of radicalisation you can help them obtain support and prevent them becoming involved in terrorism by raising your concerns and making a referral - [Prevent - Dorset Council](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/prevent)

## 4. Allegations made against Staff or Councillors

A councillor or member of staff must report any allegation made against them to the Town Clerk or Mayor.

Safeguarding concerns and allegations relating to councillors will be referred to the Monitoring Officer and dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

## 5. Review

This Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Finance and Policy Committee on 21 August 2023 for approval and adoption, minute no. 573 f) and ratified at the Full Council meeting on 29 August 2023.

Reviews will be carried out biennially or when there are changes to relevant legislation, whichever is the sooner.

Signed: (Mayor of Gillingham)

Date: