

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Lindal and Marton Parish Council recognises the importance of safeguarding all children with whom the **Lindal and Marton Parish Council** is in contact.

All Members of **Lindal and Marton Parish Council** are responsible for ensuring this welfare.

Members should be aware of the different forms of abuse: physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, together with neglect. Bullying may well contribute to abuse.

Child Protection

Immediate action may be necessary at any stage in involvement with children to ensure their wellbeing. This may include contacting the police, social services or the Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board.

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/secure/LSCBcontact>

Members are not expected to be experts on safeguarding issues so should seek advice at any hint of threat to a child's life. It is good practice to be open and honest with parents, carers, about concerns but there are circumstances when they **MUST NOT** be shared, especially where parents or carers may be responsible for the abuse. Seek advice from the Chair or the organisations previously mentioned.

It is important to listen to the child and record discreetly what is said but do not challenge or question.

It is imperative that concerns are shared with the Chair and/or police/social services. Please ensure through a second contact that the necessary action has been taken. If you as a Member are not satisfied then please make a referral directly to the Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board. This will need an accurate account of your concerns including as much information as you have about the child at risk.

Confidentiality

Any member of **Lindal and Marton Parish Council** must ensure that any records are accurate, kept confidentially and securely. Information should only be shared on a need-to-know basis. Further information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>)

Online referral forms can be found at:

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/secure/LSCBContact>

Other contacts are:

Cumbria LSCB
Cumbria House
117 Botchergate
Carlisle
Cumbria CA1 1RD

Phone: 01228 226898

or

Email: LSCB@cumbria.gov.uk