

Cultural Purbeck Community Interest Company (CIC) Safeguarding Policy

Policy issue date May 2026; Policy review date May 2027

Cultural Purbeck Community Interest Company (hereinafter Cultural Purbeck CIC) seeks to celebrate, support and promote Purbeck as a vibrant centre for the creative and performing arts, heritage and the environment.

Our safeguarding policy

This policy applies to all who might be involved with Cultural Purbeck CIC, including the Board of Directors, members, volunteers, contractors and anyone working on behalf of the CIC. It covers children (anyone under 18) and adults at risk (adults with care/support needs who may be unable to protect themselves).

The purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children young people and vulnerable adults who engage with any aspect of Cultural Purbeck CIC.
- To provide everyone with the overarching principles which guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

Cultural Purbeck CIC believes that a child, young person or vulnerable adult should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children young people and vulnerable adults and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989.

Definitions

- A child/young person is defined as anyone under 18.
- An adult at risk is defined under the Care Act 2014 as a person over 18 who may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

- Abuse may be physical, emotional/psychological, sexual, financial, neglect, discriminatory, organisational/institutional, online/digital exploitation.
- Concern/allegation: information suggesting a person may be at risk, has been harmed, or that someone's behaviour poses a risk.

Type of Harm

There are various forms of harm that can be evidenced by physical and behavioural indicators:

- Physical harm
- Coercion and Control
- Neglect
- Emotional harm
- Sexual harm
- Financial and Material harm
- Discriminatory Harm
- Radicalisation
- Modern Slavery
- Domestic Abuse

Further information is available from the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (<https://pdscp.co.uk/children-young-people/abuse-what-is-it/>) or Dorset Adult Safeguarding Adults Board, Our Dorset Adult Social Care and Community Site (dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Protecting children and young people

- All children and young people regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- We will work in partnership with children, young people and their parents, schools and youth organisations, carers and other agencies in promoting young people's welfare.

Cultural Purbeck CIC will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Working with the Purbeck schools to provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, tutors and others, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Ensuring that at least two adults are present at any event, workshop or other activity we might organise.
- Ensuring that children leaving any premises where Cultural Purbeck CIC has responsibility do so only in the presence of adults known to have permission to take them, or have parental permission to walk home.
- When working with tutors and others, ensuring all necessary background checks are made and appropriate certificates are in place. DMS tutors need Safeguarding DBS level 2.
- Informing anyone associated with Cultural Purbeck CIC that where a person is in danger, a child is at risk or a crime has been committed then a decision may be taken to pass information to another agency without the individual's consent.
- Passing information to the appropriate authority when one or more person is at risk.
- Endeavouring to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of adults.
- Ensuring that the Designated Named Person (Safeguarding Lead) understands his/her responsibility to refer incidents of adult abuse to the relevant statutory agencies.
- Ensuring that all Directors, members, volunteers and tutors are familiar with this policy and procedures.

Protecting Vulnerable Adults

For reasons of consistency and practicality, Cultural Purbeck CIC procedures for safeguarding vulnerable adults will be the same as those for safeguarding children and young people except where the law, or the specific circumstances of an individual's need require otherwise.

Safeguarding Leads:

The Designated Named Person for Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in Cultural Purbeck CIC (Safeguarding Lead) is:

Tracey Churcher (tracey.churcher@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Deputy is Debbie Evans (debbie.butler1@btinternet.com)

How to report suspected harm/abuse

The priority for all those working with Cultural Purbeck CIC (Directors, staff, volunteers, contractors etc) should be to ensure the safety and protection of an adult or child at risk. Therefore, if there is a concern, it is an individual's responsibility to act immediately where there is an urgent need for medical treatment or immediate risk of harm.

1. If the person believes the child or adult is in immediate danger – call the police 999 and/or an ambulance 999. If not go to step 2.
2. The person in receipt of a safeguarding concern should discuss as soon as possible with the Cultural Purbeck CIC Safeguarding Lead or Deputy, or that of the Member Group if applicable within the same working day, who will make a decision as to whether further action is required.
3. The Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will ensure there is an accurate record of the information given e.g. what was said, what was observed, when, where and who else was there, date/place of disclosure/concerns. This must be kept securely and only shared with relevant agencies.
4. Safeguarding Lead makes the appropriate referral within 24 hours of disclosure or concern raised.
5. Followed up in writing within 24 hours and a copy will be kept digitally in the Cultural Purbeck CIC safeguarding incident file.

Members of Cultural Purbeck CIC may also have their own safeguarding policy and procedures which must be reviewed regularly. Safeguarding concerns should be discussed with their Safeguarding lead and the Cultural Purbeck CIC Safeguarding Lead informed.

How to report concerns

Immediate risk call Police 999

Concerns about a child/young person in the Dorset Council Area:

If you have concerns or suspect that a child/young person is at risk of abuse/harm/neglect, then contact:

Family support and advice in Dorset on 01305 228558

Email: familysupportandadvice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Hours of operation:

Mon-Fri 8am – 10 pm

Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 9am – 10pm.

Out of hours emergencies: 01305 221000 – This line provides support for families concerned about a child's welfare and offers guidance and resources.

Concerns about an adult at risk in the Dorset Council Area:

To report a concern call:

01305 221016 Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm

Outside of normal opening hours: 01305 221000 or website Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board/Our Dorset Adult Social Care and Community site (dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

Concerns about staff/volunteers:

Contact the Dorset Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on 01305 221122 or email LADO@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk