PERRANWELL COMMUNITY STORE YOUTH (UNDER 16) SAFEGUARDING POLICY

To support our initiative to offer employment opportunities to young people in Perranwell, the Management Committee has consulted with the DBS, the police, Cornwall County Council, Perranwell Parish Council and other businesses. After much internal debate, we have drawn up the following set of actions and principles which collectively form our safeguarding policy:

* + Youths will only work a shift where there is a minimum of two other volunteers present for that shift. This will be communicated to all parties via 3 rings, whatsapp and physical notices in the shop.
  + If a youth has been given explicit permission to do so by their parent or guardian via the signed consent form, they are allowed - if they wish - to carry the shopping of an elderly person from the shop to that person’s front door, but not beyond. This journey is restricted to Perranwell village and must be within walking distance of the shop.
  + Any individual volunteer may opt to work with their own children, without the presence of another volunteer.  This is solely at their own discretion.
  + Volunteers may opt to not work with youths if they do not feel comfortable doing so.
  + PCS will not put any of its volunteers through DBS checking due to our considered and collective view that it is extremely ineffective[[1]](#footnote-1). It would also be expensive[[2]](#footnote-2) with such costs repeated at regular intervals. Furthermore, many employing organisations appear not to use DBS checks for their youth workers[[3]](#footnote-3).
  + A nominated member of the management committee will have responsibility for tracking the “frequency” of individual volunteers working with youths (maximum 3 shifts in any 30 days) to ensure that PCS adheres to the law regarding DBS checks at all times. As at the date of this policy, Annie Hewitt is the nominated individual.
  + Any volunteer suspecting an individual of inappropriate behaviour towards a child or youth worker must report it either to the Management Committee or direct to the Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) at Cornwall Council. PCS will encourage all other stakeholders to do the same.
  + PCS will record dates and types of DBS checks for volunteers who – either of their own accord or through other employers – have undertaken this process.  This has no legal effect for PCS but we wish to make such information to available to parents so we can allocate their children to such volunteers if necessary.
  + In advance, we will notify the parents of all youth workers of this policy and they in turn will sign a letter indicating their understanding and acceptance of this policy.
  + Assuming the Youth initiative scheme is maintained, then this policy will be reviewed at least every other year.

The PCS Management Committee

September 2024

1. Data from ONS and CSEW indicate that a basic DBS check picks up the perpetrators of about ½% of the estimated sexual crimes committed against children: 16% of such crimes reported, 4% of reported crimes result in a summons or prosecution [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. With 40 volunteers, the cost is £0.7k for a standard DBS check and £1.5k for an enhanced one [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Local examples currently include The Royal Oak, Bon Appetit, Bissoe Bike Café, Cornish Arms, The Star Inn, The Norway, Niles Bakery, Rowes Bakery, Carnon Downs Garden Centre [↑](#footnote-ref-3)