

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for People)	Executive Cabinet	24 November 2011

SAFEGUARDING POLICY – REVIEW AND UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To advise Executive Cabinet of the review and revision of the Council's child protection policy and arrangements for dealing with safeguarding issues that may arise through our contact with children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Executive Members are asked to note the review of our child protection policy and arrangements and approve the revised policy document as attached at Appendix A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The Council's current Child Protection Policy (now referred to as Safeguarding) was drafted in 2009 and the arrangements for dealing with safeguarding issues have altered due to senior management restructures in late 2010.
4. Best practice guidance indicates that such policies and procedures should be reviewed at 3 year intervals and given the structural changes it was determined this review should be undertaken now.
5. The review has resulted in minor alterations to policy and procedure as detailed below.
6. The revised policy has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. No additional actions arise out of that assessment.
7. A future Members Learning Hour will be arranged to provide detailed information on the policy and procedures as well as Members responsibilities with regard to safeguarding
8. Training for frontline staff is being provided to ensure they are fully conversant with their responsibilities and understand the procedures for raising safeguarding concerns arising from their work activities.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

9. To ensure the Councils safeguarding arrangements are up to date and reflect the responsibility on everyone to ensure the protection of children and young people.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10. None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

11. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support	X	Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities	X	Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			X

BACKGROUND

12. Members should note that the post of Head of Health Environment and Neighbourhoods is now the Councils lead officer on safeguarding issues supported by officers in the Human Resources and Occupational Development Team, Legal Team and Strategic Housing Team.
13. In relation to safeguarding issues directly affecting Members then the first point of contact is the Councils Monitoring Officer.
14. The review team comprised of the following Council officers and reflects the cross section of services that come into contact with children and young people on a daily basis:
- Head Health Environment and Neighbourhoods
 - Partnerships Manager
 - Housing Manager
 - Senior HR Consultant
 - Sports and Play Development Manager
 - Waste and Leisure Contracts Manager
 - Senior Benefits Officer
15. The review and update of the policy has resulted in minor changes in the following areas:
- An additional designated safeguarding children officer has been identified to deal with concerns and issues raised about child protection
 - Lines of responsibility have been clarified for the variety and nature of the safeguarding issue being addressed
 - Guidance on work placements has been revised
 - General guidance references have been updated
 - Standard forms have been updated

- Contact details for partner agencies have been updated

16. Training is an important part of safeguarding and Members will be invited to a specific Learning Hour on the subject and the impact of the policy and procedures.
17. In addition a training update programme will be rolled out for employees, and partner representatives will be made aware of the revised policy and its impact on their activities that involve children and young people.
18. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the revised policy and there were no negative impacts noted. Therefore no additional actions in regard to equality, health, sustainability or reputation are required in relation to the implementation of the policy and procedures.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

19. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

20. The report sets out changes to an existing policy and arrangements and therefore there are no financial implications to be considered for approval.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

21. The Monitoring Officer has no comments.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Simon Clark	5732	8 November 2011	safeguarding policy