

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>13/08/17</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Safeguarding Policy - Children, Young People &amp; Vulnerable Adults</b>		
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Budget/Policy Framework:</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
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<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1. Draft Safeguarding Policy</b>		

## FOR GENERAL RELEASE

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval for an updated Safeguarding Policy

### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that –

- 1) The draft Safeguarding Policy at Appendix 1 be approved, and
- 2) Delegation be provided to the relevant Corporate Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods, to make any subsequent amendments required as a result of legislative or operational changes. The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually.
- 3) That the SMT and Cabinet report template be amended to include Safeguarding alongside PIAs in section 11.

### 3.0 Background

3.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility and a duty of care to ensure that in discharging its functions, regard is given to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults. This includes working in line with safeguarding guidelines and reporting issues of safeguarding to the appropriate authorities and partner agencies.

- 3.2 Safeguarding is not a practice that operates in isolation; the subject cuts across every service and function that the Council undertakes and as such, should be embedded within the organisation.
- 3.3 The Safeguarding Policy aims to raise overall awareness of safeguarding, the signs of abuse and provide information on what to do if any form of abuse is identified or suspected as well as who the lead Safeguarding officers are.
- 3.4 The Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed to ensure that it reflects current legislation, countywide procedures and working practices at the Council. Attached at Appendix A is a revised policy.
- 3.5 The updated document is designed to outline the legislative requirements in respect of safeguarding and the duties that are placed on the Council in this regard. It also specifies the duties and responsibilities of various officers of the Council in respect of safeguarding.
- 3.6 Training is an important aspect of safeguarding and it is intended that all staff should have access to basic information on safeguarding with specialist courses being provided as necessary. As the duties also extend to elected Members, it is also intended to hold periodic awareness sessions with Councillors. The Council, through the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Boards, has access to a variety of training courses. The City Council will also encourage and, where possible, help to facilitate, Safeguarding training for those who work with us from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).
- 3.7 An important part of safeguarding work is participation in County-wide partnerships where good practice can be shared and also ensures that all partners are working to similar standards. The Council adheres to agreed information sharing protocols.
- 3.8 Subject to approval, it is intended to promote awareness of the Safeguarding Policy with staff via the internal communications and more formally through our Net Consent automated policy governance system which requires staff to understand and accept the policy. The Council will also continue to coordinate and champion safeguarding through its regular internal 'Safeguarding Leads' meetings.
- 3.9 All council policies should include a safeguarding consideration, where necessary. To ensure that Safeguarding is always considered, it is proposed that the template for SMT and Cabinet reports is amended so that section 11 refers to "People Impact Assessment (PIAs) and Safeguarding" in order to highlight this need. Support with PIAs and Safeguarding considerations can be sought from the Equalities and Safeguarding leads on the Community Wellbeing Team.

#### **4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations**

- 4.1 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and this Policy recognises the role of all staff, particularly those who work directly with and in our communities, in raising awareness of safeguarding practices through ABCD approaches.

4.2 The Safeguarding Policy particularly recognises that Members are uniquely placed to support the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults within their communities, and encourages their role in doing so.

## **5.0 Future Work and Conclusions**

5.1 Future work will be required to ensure that all staff receive safeguarding training, and understand the procedures for reporting safeguarding concerns.

5.2 Future work with HR will ensure that all new starters receive Safeguarding training as part of their induction.

## **8.0 Financial Implications**

8.1 No financial implications have been identified in respect of this report or the attached Safeguarding Policy.

## **9.0 Legal Implications**

9.1 This report and attached Safeguarding Policy reflects the legislative requirements placed on the Council in respect of safeguarding, namely the Children's Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014.

## **10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications**

10.1 The most significant risk is that of failing in our Safeguarding duty, should the Policy and associated staff awareness training not be implemented.

## **11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):**

11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

## **12.0 Other Corporate Implications**

### Community Safety

12.1 Safeguarding runs through various strands of Community Safety, including the casework carried out by Project Solace, helping to inform and support the work that we carry out to meet our statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 2011.

### Sustainability

12.3 The Safeguarding Policy will be sustainably implemented through staff training and awareness, led by the lead officers.

### Staffing & Trade Union

12.4 None identified.