

# Appendix 3 - Limited Assurance Statement

AUDIT	Safeguarding children self-assessment	DATE:	12 September 2014
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Limited Assurance Statement within audit opinion of report	Supplementary information relating to limited assurance statement	Recommendation	Action to be taken	Officer Responsible	Priority
<p>All conditions within the safeguarding children self-assessment have been completed and, in line with the guidance provided, actions have been noted where the condition is not considered to be fully met.</p> <p>A review of the self-assessment provided assurance that the responses given are a fair reflection of the Council's safeguarding arrangements at the time of its completion in November 2013. Furthermore, the supporting evidence is considered to be appropriate to demonstrate either partial, full or non-compliance; although this evidence could be strengthened in some areas.</p> <p>Areas of good practice are demonstrated through the Council having in place a Safeguarding Children Policy which is available to all staff. This policy is implemented throughout the Council, demonstrated by a number of referrals that have taken place. There is a clear line of accountability within the organisation, procedures are in place for the reporting of</p>	<p>Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations to ensure that their functions and any services that they contract out to others are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Section 11 also outlines the arrangements that these organisations should have in place to reflect the importance of safeguarding across the organisation. The Gloucestershire S11 audit tool combines the requirements of S11 with locally agreed safeguarding standards. Therefore, some are statutory requirements, whilst others are locally agreed safeguarding best practice.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate compliance; a self-assessment must be completed by each</p>	<p>The following actions should be undertaken in respect of identifying and reporting safeguarding issues:</p> <p>Monitoring of the action plan should be undertaken.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safeguarding children should be defined under an appropriate Lead Member portfolio and updates be provided accordingly.</li> <li>2. Following the appointment of the Housing Services Manager, contact details for the Council's Deputy Designated Officer should be updated within the Safeguarding Children Policy and other relevant forms of communication i.e. posters.</li> <li>3. Relevant</li> </ol>	<p>Group Manager Environmental &amp; Housing Services</p>	<p>E</p>

**E= Essential** – Necessary due to statutory obligation, legal requirement, Council policy or major risk of loss or damage to Council assets, information or reputation. Where possible it should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

**N= Necessary** - Could cause limited loss of assets or information or adverse publicity or embarrassment. Necessary for sound internal control and confidence in the system to exist and should be pursued in the short term, ideally within 6 months.

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<p>any safeguarding issues or concerns at a senior management level and close working with other authorities enables communication with individual children and their families. Staff awareness in respect of safeguarding children is maintained through staff and Member briefings.</p> <p>In relation to the reporting of safeguarding issues, the audit did identify the following areas which require action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member Updates to an appropriate Lead Member;</li> <li>• the update of staff contact details following recent staff changes; and</li> <li>• the provision of safeguarding training for appropriate staff.</li> </ul> <p>The self-assessment requires the creation of an action plan to address those conditions that have not been fully met. The audit focussed on those actions with due dates up to April 2014; all of which remained outstanding. It has therefore been recommended that, in order to monitor progress and ensure its completion, ownership of the action plan should be identified and monitored by an appropriate Officer. This is particularly important as the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board</p>	<p>authority. This also requires the creation of an action plan to address those conditions that have not been fully met. The purpose of the action plan is for the Council to be clear about where improvements are needed and to have plans in place to address them throughout the year. The audit focussed on those actions with due dates up to April 2014; all of which remained outstanding.</p> <p>It has therefore been recommended that, in order to monitor progress and ensure its completion, ownership of the action plan should be identified and monitored by an appropriate Officer. This is particularly important as the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) will be requesting updates on progress against the created action plans in the autumn. If at the point of review actions have not been completed, it is possible that the Independent Chair of the GSCB would want to speak to the Council's</p>		<p>safeguarding training should be identified and provided to appropriate staff and training records maintained.</p> <p>4. Safeguarding children should continue to be a consideration within the upcoming review of the corporate induction process.</p> <p>1. In order to monitor progress and ensure completion, ownership of the safeguarding children self-assessment action plan should be identified and monitored by an appropriate Officer.</p> <p>2. The action plan should remain fluid and be updated to include any new</p>	<p>Group Manager Environmental &amp; Housing Services</p>	<p>E</p>
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<p>(GSCB) will be requesting updates on progress against the created action plans in the autumn. If at this point it is identified that actions have not been completed and any areas of non-compliance are identified, it is possible that the Independent Chair of the GSCB would conduct a review into the potential impact this would have on safeguarding children and young people in Gloucestershire. This poses a high risk, reputationally, for the Council if there were to be a serious case review.</p>	<p>safeguarding Lead Officer to understand what potential impact this would have on safeguarding children and young people in Gloucestershire. There are also high risks to the authority, reputationally, if there were to be a serious case review and there was evidence that employees did not understand their safeguarding responsibilities.</p>		<p>actions as a result of the Housing Options Team Leader leaving the authority i.e. update of posters etc.</p> <p>3. Implementation dates within the action plan should be reviewed to ensure any new dates are feasible and can be achieved.</p>		
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