

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 November 2016
Subject:	Safeguarding Policy
Report of:	Interim Head of Community Services, Richard Kirk
Corporate Lead:	Deputy Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Community
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

The Council's Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and revised in accordance with the Executive's Forward Plan.

Recommendation:

To APPROVE the revised Safeguarding Policy and AGREE that future amendments to the Policy can be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive.

Reasons for Recommendation:

The Council's Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and revised to incorporate a number of changes to reflect best practice and now requires adoption.

Resource Implications:

Continual in-house training and monitoring through the current staffing establishment.

Legal Implications:

The Children Act 2004, the Care Act 2014 and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 places duties on the Council to ensure its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults.

Risk Management Implications:

The Council has a duty of care for the children and young people who take part in activities, or access services that it provides. The Council recognises that all children and young people have a right to be safe and to be protected from abuse and harm. By not having an up to date policy and associated training in place for staff, children or young people could be exposed to increased risk of abuse and this could damage the Council's reputation.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually.

Environmental Implications:

None specific for this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 The Council has a duty of care towards children, young people and vulnerable adults who take part in activities or access the services that it provides.

The Council has previously recognised that all children have a right to be safe and to be protected from abuse and harm and takes seriously its duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It therefore takes all reasonable steps to ensure services for children are safe and accessible; this duty of care now extends to vulnerable adults.

1.2 The Council also has a duty under the Children Act 2004, to cooperate with the Lead Authority, Gloucestershire County Council. The interagency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children are coordinated and monitored through the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board, which links to the Gloucestershire Children and Young People's Partnership.

1.3 Additional similar responsibilities were placed on the Council for vulnerable adults under the Care Act 2014.

2.0 ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 At the Executive Committee on 2nd October 2013, it was agreed that:

- the Council's Safeguarding Policy and training action plan would be approved;
- authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive to alter the Policy once approved, to take account of changes in staffing and job titles as a result of any subsequent staff changes; and
- in the event of any legislative changes that affect delivery of the policy, the policy will be bought back to Executive Committee.

2.2 In addition to the obligations under the legislation relating to children and young people, the Council has a duty of care in relation to vulnerable adults under the Care Act 2014.

2.3 A new Safeguarding Policy has been written and now includes a wider remit to cover the welfare of vulnerable adults as well as children and for this reason it is being brought to the Executive Committee for approval. The revised Safeguarding Policy is attached at Appendix 1.

2.4 The Council's Audit Team has previously undertaken a compliance audit (September 2014) in respect of Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that the Council is discharging its functions correctly having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

A further Section 11 audit will be carried out in Q4 and the results reported to the Audit Committee.

2.5 Contractors providing a service on behalf of the Council e.g. leisure services will be required to work within the framework of the policy.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 None.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 None.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary Procedure and Rules.

Disclosure Policy and Procedure.

Equality Statement and Equality Schemes.

Grievance Policy and Procedure.

Harassment and Bullying Procedure.

Recruitment and Selection – Code of Practice.

ICT User Policy.

Data Protection – Policy, Procedure and Guidance.

Complaints Procedure.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 Statutory Guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (HM Government 2005).

Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (HM Government 2015).

Guide to the Care Act 2014 - The Implications for Providers.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 On-going training costs.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 None.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health & Safety)

9.1 Matters relating to equalities and human rights are contained within the revised Safeguarding Policy. Appropriate referrals carried out will ensure children and vulnerable adults are kept safe.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 None.

Background Papers: None.

Contact Officers: Richard Kirk, Interim Head of Community Services
01684 272259 richard.kirk@tewkesbury.gov.uk

Paula Baker, Housing Services Manager
01684 272173 paula.baker@tewkesbury.gov.uk

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Safeguarding Policy.