

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date of Meeting:	28 March 2018
Subject:	Annual Safeguarding Update
Report of:	Peter J Tonge, Head of Community Services
Corporate Lead:	Mike Dawson, Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Councillor K J Berry, Lead Member for Community
Number of Appendices:	Two

Executive Summary:

This report provides the Committee with an update on how the Council is fulfilling its safeguarding responsibilities.

The self-assessment at Appendix 1 is a summary of the arrangements that the Council has in place for ensuring that it safeguards and promotes the welfare of children in line with the Council's Safeguarding Policy. The assessment is submitted to Gloucestershire County Council annually.

Appendix 2 is an update on the actions identified as part of an internal audit of safeguarding.

Recommendation:

To CONSIDER the annual report giving assurance as to the level of the Council's compliance with its safeguarding duty.

Reasons for Recommendation:

Tewkesbury Borough Council is committed to the principles of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. Our employees and any contractors working on the Council's behalf are briefed and understand the definitions of children and vulnerable adults in the context of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act and the legislative framework of measures to protect these groups from harm.

Resource Implications:

None arising from this report.

Legal Implications:

None arising directly from this report; however, the Children Act 2004, the safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Care Act 2014 place duties on the Council to ensure its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Risk Management Implications:

None arising directly from this report; however, the Council has a duty of care for the children, young people and vulnerable adults 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 complying with the recommendations made in the safeguarding audit, children, young people and vulnerable adults could be exposed to an increased risk of abuse and this in turn could damage the Council's reputation.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed in 2018/19 to ensure that it is still fit for purpose.

Environmental Implications:

None

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Tewkesbury Borough Council recognises and accepts its responsibilities to ensure as far as possible that young people and vulnerable adults are protected from harm.
- 1.2 In December 2017, the Safeguarding Children Self-Assessment toolkit was completed and submitted to Gloucestershire County Council. This is attached to the report at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 As part of ensuring that we are dealing with safeguarding appropriately, the Internal Audit team carried out a review of how the Council complies with this requirement. Appendix 2 to this report is an update on the activity that has been carried in regard to the actions identified.

2.0 ANNUAL REPORT

- 2.1 The Section 11 self-assessment and the update on the internal audit fulfil the requirements of an annual report.
- 2.2 The Section 11 assessment shows that the Council is, on the whole, fully meeting its requirement to keep young people safe from harm and this has been evidenced by the provision of documentation within the self-assessment.

- 2.3** There are a few areas where the Council is only partially meeting the requirements, in particular these are:
- Volunteers – It is not considered that we fully meet these criteria as we do not use volunteers that would need in-depth training and an understanding of safeguarding is considered sufficient.
 - Safeguarding incorporated into staff appraisals etc. – Safeguarding is not currently reflected in appraisal, supervision or helpful behaviours framework. These elements could be incorporated in future.
 - Procurement / Commissioning – Safeguarding is reflected when procuring services or contracts; however, the nature of the commissioning that a district council does not lend itself to fully meeting this requirement.
- 2.4** Most of the actions in the Internal Audit action plan have been completed or are progressing well. The two elements that are not due to meet the timescale are around the hackney carriage and private hire drivers; as the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Policy needs to be reviewed, it makes sense to incorporate these actions into that.
- 3.0 PURPOSE**
- 3.1** The Council is committed to the principles of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. This annual update provides Councillors with reassurance that these commitments are being met.
- 4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**
- 4.1** None
- 5.0 CONSULTATION**
- 5.1** None
- 6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**
- 6.1** Tewkesbury Borough Council Safeguarding Policy
- 7.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**
- 7.1** Safeguarding children and young people – July 2014
Adult safeguarding: statement of government policy – May 2011.
- 8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**
- 8.1** None
- 9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**
- 9.1** None

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

10.1 None

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Gloucestershire Section 11 Self-Assessment Audit Tool - Standards for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Appendix 2 - Internal Audit of Safeguarding – Action plan update.