

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| <b>Report to:</b>            | Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>      | 11 February 2020                |
| <b>Subject:</b>              | Revised Safeguarding Policy     |
| <b>Report of:</b>            | Head of Community Services      |
| <b>Corporate Lead:</b>       | Deputy Chief Executive          |
| <b>Lead Member:</b>          | Lead Member for Community       |
| <b>Number of Appendices:</b> | 1                               |

## **Executive Summary:**

Tewkesbury Borough Council adopted its current Safeguarding Policy in November 2016. The policy should be reviewed periodically in light of legislative changes or changes in working practices. This review is a periodic review to ensure that the policy remains fit for purpose.

Tewkesbury Borough Council is committed to working in partnership with others to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

This policy aims to ensure that an overarching approach to safeguarding is embedded within all Council services and that all staff, Elected Members, those delivering contracts on behalf of the Council and volunteers understand their role and responsibilities in supporting residents to live a life free from abuse, exploitation and intimidation.

There are a number of minor changes to the policy and the report also informs Members of changes that have occurred at a County-wide level in managing children's safeguarding as a result of new statutory guidance introduced in 2018.

## **Recommendation:**

**To CONSIDER the revised Safeguarding Policy and to RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE that the Policy is adopted.**

## **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:**

None arising directly as a result of this report.

## **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, young people and vulnerable adults who take part in activities, or access services that it provides. The Council recognises that all children, young people and vulnerable adults 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, young people and vulnerable adults 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 to ensure it remains fit for purpose and will be fully reviewed in the case of changes to legislation and / or practices or every three years in any circumstances.

**Environmental Implications:**

None arising directly as a result of this report.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Safeguarding is everybody's business, all Members and employees, and other statutory partners have a duty to report all safeguarding concerns to relevant safeguarding authority.
- 1.3 The Councils current Safeguarding Policy was adopted in November 2016 and should be reviewed periodically and updated where necessary.

**2.0 CHANGES TO THE POLICY**

- 2.1 There are few significant changes to the policy, although it has undergone a refresh and now incorporates a recognition of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- 2.2 ACEs are specified traumatic events occurring before the age of 18. They can include direct experiences, such as sexual, physical or verbal abuse and emotional and physical neglect, and indirect experiences such as parental separation, substance misuse, mental illness, incarceration or domestic abuse.
- 2.3 Nearly half of people in England experience at least one ACE, with around 9% experiencing four or more ACEs. The more ACEs a person experiences, the higher the risk of poorer health and social outcomes later in life. People with six or more ACEs die on average 20 years younger than people with no ACEs.
- 2.4 The draft Policy has also been updated to take into account the fact that children and vulnerable people can be victims of online crime which is broader than simply cyber-bullying as reflected in the current policy.

### **3.0 WORKING TOGETHER**

**3.1** Whilst not directly affecting Tewkesbury Borough Council there have been other changes in the safeguarding arena which are brought to Members attention for information only.

**3.2** The Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government: July 2018) statutory guidance places a 'shared and equal duty' on NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gloucestershire County Council for children's safeguarding arrangements where, in the past, the local authority was the sole accountable body for local arrangements.

**3.3** Gloucestershire's Safeguarding Partners view Working Together 2018 as an opportunity to realign the collective safeguarding arrangements. The ongoing development of Gloucestershire's wider multi-agency governance framework and local approaches toward the use of restorative practices and taking action on ACEs when working with children and families is well advanced.

**3.4** If Members wish to know more about the new arrangements, further information is available on the Gloucestershire County Council website

**3.5** One further change which does impact on Tewkesbury Borough Council is in the way that partners, i.e. district and borough councils, demonstrate their compliance with their safeguarding duties. Previously this was done by each body completing a Section 11 Audit. It is proposed that, in future, each agency will produce a safeguarding report relevant to their agency and that the relevant officer may be invited to an assurance panel to talk to their report. It is believed this will be more meaningful than simply completing and submitting an audit.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**4.1** Not applicable.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

**5.1** Not applicable.

### **6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

**6.1** Not applicable.

### **7.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

**7.1** Not applicable.

### **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

**8.1** Not applicable.

### **9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**

**9.1** Not applicable.

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

**10.1** Not applicable.

**11.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

**11.1** Not applicable.

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**Background Papers:** None

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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Tewkesbury Borough Council Revised Safeguarding Policy