

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 November 2022
Subject:	Annual Safeguarding Update
Report of:	Head of Community Services
Head of Service / Director:	Head of Community Services
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Community.
Number of Appendices:	3

Executive Summary:

Safeguarding is everybody's business. All Councillors, employees and other statutory partners have a duty to report all safeguarding concerns to the relevant safeguarding authority. This report provides the Committee with an update on how Tewkesbury Borough Council is fulfilling its safeguarding responsibilities. The Council has a Safeguarding Policy and Procedure which was refreshed and adopted in February 2020.

Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 places a duty on safeguarding partners to demonstrate that they have effective processes in place to fulfil their responsibilities on safeguarding children and this is done by way of a self-assessment which is submitted for scrutiny to an assurance panel.

Recommendation:

To CONSIDER the contents of the annual report and the Section 11 assurance submission to give assurance as to the levels of the Council's compliance with its safeguarding duty.

Financial Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications:

None arising directly from this report, however the, Children Act 2004, Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Care Act 2014 place duties on the authority to ensure its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):

None arising directly from this report.

Safeguarding Implications:

As set out in the body of the report.

Impact on the Customer:

None arising directly from this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Safeguarding is everybody's business, all Councillors, employees and other statutory partners have a duty to report all safeguarding concerns to the relevant safeguarding authority. In Gloucestershire this means Gloucestershire County Council Children or Adults services.
- 1.2** Tewkesbury Borough Council recognises and accepts its responsibilities to ensure, as far as possible, that young people and adults at risk are protected from harm.
- 1.3** Historically, district and borough councils and other partners are required to carry out a self-assessment in order to demonstrate their compliance with Section 11 (S.11) of the Children's Act 2004.
- 1.4** The S.11 process is a statutory requirement and an integral part of the self-assessment and assurance of effective safeguarding practice for each agency. This year's S.11 self-assessment has been submitted to the Assurance Panel and is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 1.5** The self-assessment focusses on four main areas:
- 1) Leadership and Accountability
 - 2) Staff Safe Recruitment, Induction, Training and Development
 - 3) Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
 - 4) Listening to Children and Young People.
- 1.6** The Head of Community Services will attend the Assurance Panel in November 2022 to undergo further scrutiny of the written S.11 statement.

2.0 ASYLUM SEEKER / MIGRANT SAFEGUARDING

- 2.1** Over the last year the additional element of migrant safeguarding has arisen. The Homes for Ukraine scheme in particular has brought additional requirements for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. Each host needs a DBS check and, where children from Ukraine are present, an enhanced DBS check is required. If there is any doubt as to the host's suitability, no guests will be placed with that host.
- 2.2** Where unaccompanied minors come from Ukraine very strict checks are put into place, similar to those checks for fostering arrangements. These checks are carried out by children's safeguarding services at Gloucestershire County Council. To date only one unaccompanied minor has come to the county from Ukraine.

3.0 TEWKESBURY SAFEGUARDING CASES

3.1 At a previous meeting of this Committee, a Member asked whether examples of cases could be provided in this report; Appendix 2 shows a representative sample of cases reported by various departments and partners.

3.2 Appendix 3 provides a short case study of the work of the team in relation to anti-social behaviour with potential safeguarding elements.

3.3 All of the information in these appendices has been anonymised.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 None

5.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS

5.1 None

6.0 MONITORING

6.1 None

7.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

7.1 The Council's Safeguarding Policy

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Section 11 submission
Appendix 2 – Sample of safeguarding cases
Appendix 3 – Case study