

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Corporate Select Committee

11 June 2018

TITLE:	Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Julie McCabe - Executive Councillor for Housing and Communities
CONTACT OFFICER:	Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer
WARDS INVOLVED:	All

Appendices Attached

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy and Procedure (Appendix 1)

1. Reason for the Report

The Council last revised its Safeguarding Policy in 2016. An amended policy is presented to reflect recent legislative and other changes. The report also provides an update to Councillors on the Council's actions to meet its safeguarding duties.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Executive be requested to note the actions taken by the Council in response to its safeguarding duties.
- 2.2 That the Executive be recommended to approve the amended Safeguarding Policy.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Council is committed to ensuring the safety and protection of people using its services. In response, the Council has developed policies and procedures to ensure that children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect are safeguarded when using services provided by or

on behalf of the Council in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

- 3.2 The Council approved a Child Protection Policy in 2006 and subsequently updated the policy to incorporate adults at risk of abuse and neglect in 2014. The introduction of the Care Act in May 2014 necessitated some changes and a revised policy was agreed by the Council in 2016. Further revisions have been made and a new policy is attached at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 3.3 The Council has established an officer group, chaired by the Executive Director (People) to co-ordinate the Council's response to safeguarding.
- 3.4 Recent actions include: updating the Council's safeguarding policy, providing safeguarding training for staff members; updating recruitment and training procedures, and reviewing staff safety arrangements. The Council has also supported the work of the High Peak Community Safety Partnership to safeguard the local community.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The Council is committed to providing quality services.

5. Options and Analysis

- 5.1 None.

6. Implications

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

The Council's policy assists the Council to ensure the safety of children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

6.2 Workforce

The Council's policy requires all staff with direct or indirect access to children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect to be vetted, checked and provided with an appropriate level of training. There is a requirement that every member of staff has an awareness of the Council's policy.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

There are no specific implications.

6.4 Financial Considerations

The policy commits the Council to ensure appropriate training for staff

and members.

6.5 Legal

The policy assists the Council to fulfil its statutory duties with respect to the protection of children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

6.6 Sustainability

No specific implications.

6.7 Internal and External Consultation

No specific implications.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Implementation of the policy will assist the Council to manage risks in relation to the impact of its services and activities on individual children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

7. Background and Detail

7.1 The Council approved a Child Protection Policy in 2006 and subsequently updated the policy to incorporate adults at risk of abuse and neglect in 2014. The introduction of the Care Act in May 2014 necessitated some changes and a revised policy was agreed by the Council in 2016.

7.2 The Council's officer group, chaired by the Executive Director (People), continues to meet on a quarterly basis to co-ordinate the Council's response to safeguarding.

Activity since the last annual report

7.3 An amended Safeguarding Policy has been produced for approval by Councillors (attached at Appendix 1) to reflect legislative changes, notably the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation, and other minor procedural changes.

7.4 All staff members have received appropriate safeguarding training either on-line or face-to-face. Any further needs for specific safeguarding training will be identified through the annual PEP process. New recruits will receive training as and when required. The Council's on-line Safeguarding Children's and Adults Course was updated in January 2018.

7.5 Staff safety arrangements have been reviewed to have one consistent approach across the Alliance. This safeguards both colleagues, who are now aware if a customer poses additional risk, and also customers who have different needs that need to be met. The register is reviewed quarterly to ensure that it remains up-to-date.

- 7.6 An internal audit of the Council's safeguarding requirements was completed in January 2018, which concluded that the controls in place provide satisfactory assurance that risks are being adequately managed. The audit did not reveal any significant risks but highlighted two medium level risks:
- Both HPBC and SMDC have a 'Recruitment and Selection Procedure' which had not been updated for some time, and therefore did not adequately reflect current procedures e.g. policy refers to Criminal Records Checks which are no longer relevant and have been superseded by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).
 - A review of staff with access to the register of concerns highlighted that Northgate staff have full access (read, modify and delete access) to this information which is extremely personal and sensitive. A review of staff with access to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) spreadsheet stored on the Council's network also highlighted staff who have full access who do not required it as part of their role.
- 7.7 A revised Recruitment and Selection procedure has been produced and will be considered at the Quarterly Union Meeting in July 2018. Access for Northgate staff has been reduced and now only the on-site team have access to the folders for administrative purposes. Similarly, access to the DBS database has also now been restricted.
- 7.8 One of the priorities of the High Peak Community Safety Partnership has been support for vulnerable people. Work has included:
- Delivering a Community Safety Action Week in Fairfield that included fire safety checks and in-house installations and demonstrations within elderly and vulnerable persons' households; and fraud awareness, CSE, and internet safety stands and workshops.
 - Commissioning the My Place outreach scheme in Buxton. The outreach team has made several safeguarding referrals in relation to vulnerable people encountered during the course of their outreach work. The team has showed a no nonsense approach to children under the influence of alcohol – parents have been called to pick up young people in order that these young people do not become an issue for the emergency services.
 - Commissioning the Freedom programme, which is a training programme that empowers women to improve the quality of their lives through understanding domestic violence.
 - Organising theatre education workshops in local schools to raise awareness of potential threats around CSE and demonstrate what healthy relationships look like.

Mark Trillo
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Background Papers

Location

Contact details

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