

# **North East Derbyshire District Council**

## **Cabinet**

**26 October 2023**

### **Safeguarding Policy and Procedures - Protecting Children and Adults at Risk**

#### **Report of Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership and Finance**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Lee Hickin

**Contact Officer:** Diane Parker

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### **PURPOSE/SUMMARY**

It was agreed at the Derbyshire Safeguarding Leads Group that a Safeguarding Policy would be developed by all District / Borough Councils across Derbyshire together; this will ensure consistency of service.

Safeguarding is an everyday part of all Council employee roles, and it is important to have a supportive culture across the Council, so all staff, Elected Members, volunteers, grant funded organisations and those delivering contracts on behalf of the Council, understand their responsibilities to safeguard against harm and abuse. In turn, this will allow them to support children and adults within our District who receive Council services and/or support employees in the workplace.

This Policy will set out the policy and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Adults, outlining the responsibilities of the Council and to ensure that an overarching approach to safeguarding is embedded within all our services and across Derbyshire.

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To seek Cabinet approval and adopt the final draft of the Derbyshire wide policy - Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Protecting Children and Adults at Risk
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## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Finance and Risk**

Yes

No ✓

#### **Finance**

There is no financial risk to the Council. All Derbyshire County Council multi-agency training on safeguarding is free of charge, however any extra training that may be sought from another provider may incur a charge. An internal training programme is also delivered by the Council and reviewed periodically.

### **Legal including Data Protection**

Yes

No

The Council has a duty to ensure it places appropriate emphasis on safeguarding Adults and Children through various pieces of legislation. The main legislation for this policy area is the Care Act 2014.

Where there is a concern that a child or adult may be suffering, or is at risk of significant harm, sharing confidential information without consent is allowed under the Data Protection Act 2018. All employees have a statutory obligation to safeguard the confidentiality of personal information, therefore every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality, and information will be shared on a need-to-know basis.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

### **Staffing**

Yes

No ✓

Existing employees' time will be required to provide the Link Officer and monitoring officer responsibilities. Existing employees will also provide the internal Safeguarding training.

On Behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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## **DECISION INFORMATION**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b>  A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC:</i> <i>Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>NEDDC:</i> <i>Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	No
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies	
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</b>	Yes
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	All – indirectly but not significantly
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	A great place where people can live well  A great place to access a good public service

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## **REPORT DETAILS**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Current Adult and Children Safeguarding Policies, which are separate documents, do not expire until the year 2025, however this policy is one single document and will replace the existing two.
- 1.2 Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is the statutory lead for safeguarding in Derbyshire as they have responsibility for adult care and children’s services.
- 1.3 There is a requirement that the Derbyshire District / Borough Councils must work in partnership with their upper tier authority (DCC), therefore this Policy has been developed to complement DCC’s Safeguarding Policy and procedures and has the approval of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Boards.
- 1.4 Each Local Authority and their partners must collaborate and work together, therefore one policy across Derbyshire along with the associated information sheets will ensure consistency with a partnership approach for delivering the Council’s statutory obligations.
- 1.5 The Safeguarding Policy has been adapted in line with the Council’s reporting procedures, therefore the current reporting procedures in place will not be amended.

### **2. Detail**

- 2.1 The purpose of this Safeguarding Policy is to make explicit the responsibilities of all professionals, volunteers and agencies working together to protect those adults and children most at risk from harm and abuse with an aim to:
- Implement and maintain systems of working practice to safeguard adults and children during Council activities.
  - Ensure that safeguarding is recognised as everyone’s business within the Council and know how to make a referral.

- Ensure that concerns about abuse are reported promptly to the appropriate authorities.
- Offer guidance and support to all employees and Councillors involved in Council activities, to assist them in recognising and responding to the signs of possible abuse, and to protect themselves against allegations.
- Ensure that the Council's role and responsibility in protecting adults and children from abuse is clear.
- Raise awareness around safeguarding of adults and children.
- Work in compliance with the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

2.2 The Council will raise awareness of the new policy by publishing on the Council's intranet and website.

2.3 Safeguarding training will continue to be implemented for all new and existing employees, training may include internal courses, external courses, seminars and workshops, which may be attended virtually or in person.

2.4 All Safeguarding Link Officers will undertake training on their roles and responsibilities at regular intervals to give updates on any change in legislation.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 To approve and adopt the Derbyshire wide policy - Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Protecting Children and Adults at Risk, which will subsequently replace the current Adult and Child Safeguarding policies.

3.2 The Policy complies with legislation and provides a framework for Safeguarding.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 An alternative option is not to adopt the Derbyshire wide policy and continue to have two policies in place, this was rejected due to the partnership approach to provide consistency across Derbyshire for Safeguarding.

4.2 Another reason for rejection is that future staff time will be saved reviewing one policy instead of two.

4.3 One policy for both adults and children will be more "user friendly" to employees and residents of the District.

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## **DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Safeguarding Policy and Procedures - 'Protecting Children and Adults at Risk'
<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
Diane Parker	01246 217292