

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

11 July 2019

Child Protection Policy

Report of Councillor B Lewis, Portfolio Holder for Partnerships & Leisure

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To seek members approval of the revised Child Protection Policy and subsequent amendments.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 The Council has a responsibility to Safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring that all children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm by implementing a child centred approach which is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child.
- 1.2 The policy sets out how the Council will work in partnership with Derbyshire County Council (DCC), who has the primary function for children and young people's services. It also highlights how the council implements the child safeguarding policy and procedures which is in accordance with Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Boards policy, practice and procedures.
- 1.3 The Child Protection Policy was first approved in November 2012 followed by a revision in 2016 stipulating that the Policy must be reviewed in 2019.
- 1.4 Derbyshire County Council Child Safeguarding Policy and procedures have been amended slightly with changes to legislation and guidance.
- 1.5 Changes to the Council's Child protection Policy are required to take into account DCC changes.
- 1.6 The aim of the policy is to:
 - Implement and maintain systems of working practice to safeguard children and young people at Council activities;
 - Ensure that children/young people and their parents have confidence in Council employees, policies and practices in respect of the safe supervision of children and young people;
 - Ensure that concerns about child safety are reported promptly to the appropriate authorities;

- Offer guidance and support to all employees, volunteers and Councillors involved in Council activity 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 children and young people from abuse is clear;
- Raise awareness around safeguarding children and young people;
- Raise awareness of safeguarding issues and procedures;
- Work in compliance with the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures

1.7 The policy was originally reviewed by Scrutiny Members and approved by DCC safeguarding experts, the amendments do not impact greatly on operational procedures or practices.

1.8 The Policy has been reviewed in conjunction with the joint Corporate Safeguarding Officer Group incorporating NEDDC, BDC, and Rykneld Homes Limited.

1.9 The amendments identified are;

- changes in the Council's Safeguarding Link Officers,
- including new national guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children"
- amending DCC contact numbers for Starting Point and include the new Advice Line for practitioners
- Including the Online referral form information
- Amend outdated terminology from 'vulnerable adult' to 'adult at risk'
- Refresh/update Policy and Appendices

1.10 Other activities to raise awareness of safeguarding have included:

- A revision to the staff quick reference cards which detail signs of abuse, how to refer and contact details for all Safeguarding Link Officers is currently being refreshed.
- Ongoing mandatory Safeguarding awareness training for staff.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 That the Child Protection Policy needs to be updated in light of changes introduced by Derbyshire County Council and new legislative guidance.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 The policy has been reviewed in accordance with the corporate Safeguarding Officers Group.

3.2. The policy has been reviewed and amended in line with the renewal date.

3.3 Existing Equality Impact Assessment in place and is still relevant.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no alternative options other than to review the existing policy, not having a policy in place will not be good practice and will be against Government guidance.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 All Derbyshire County Council multi-agency training on safeguarding is free of charge. Though it should be noted that costs would be incurred for travel and potentially some back filling of roles for staff who are attending training.

- 5.1.2 Internal safeguarding training is funded from the Learning and Development budget.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 The Council has a duty to ensure it places appropriate emphasis on safeguarding both Children and young Adults at Risk through various pieces of legislation.

- 5.2.2 Data protection is adhered to through the Council's usual policies but also through Safeguarding legislation, including the Derby and Derbyshire Partnership Forum Sharing of Information Protocol highlighted in the policy.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

None

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That members approve the Child Protection Policy and subsequent amendments.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	All
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	All

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Child Protection Policy
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
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