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| Committee: | Executive | Agenda Item No.: | 6 |
| Date: | 5 th August 2013 | Status | Open |
| Category | | | |
| Subject: | Child Protection Policy Renewal | | |
| Report by: | Joint Assistant Director - Leisure | | |
| Other Officers Involved | Joint Director of Health & Wellbeing Housing Enforcement Manager | | |
| Director | Joint Director of Health & Wellbeing | | |
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Councillor A. M. Syrett, Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion | | |

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

COMMUNITY SAFETY – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure by having in place clear standards and robust procedures that safeguard children.

CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES – Providing excellent customer focused services by being able to re-assure customers that we operate child friendly services.

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning by ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our society can safely access our services, activities or programmes.

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation by strengthening the Authority's existing policy by drawing on guidance and good practice from other organisations who have a responsibility for or an interest in safeguarding children.

TARGETS

To put in place an effective policy that serves to protect the most vulnerable within our society. To ensure that all appropriate individuals within our organisation are aware, understand and are trained in the implementation of the policy.

THE REPORT

Local authorities have a duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that their functions and services, provided on their behalf, are

discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Bolsover District Council has demonstrated through the production and implementation of its previous Child Protection policies that it is committed to ensuring that all children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm.

The aims of the revised policy are 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 abuse 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;
- Live up to our Corporate Plan ensuring that communities are safe and secure;
- Revise awareness of safeguarding issues and procedures;
- Work in compliance with the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures (www.derbyshirescb.org.uk).

Key principles

The guidance given in this policy document is based on the following key principles:

- The welfare of children and young people is the primary concern
- It is the responsibility of all employees, Councillors and volunteers to report any concerns regarding suspected abuse against children and young people
- All children and young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse;
- All incidents of suspected poor practice and/or allegations should be taken seriously and responded to quickly and appropriately. This includes allegations of poor practice against employees, volunteers and Councillors.

Scope of Policy

The policy covers all of the functions and services of the Council, as well as the operations of partners, contractors and voluntary organisations that deliver services on its behalf.

The policy covers all children and young people up to the age of 18 years of age who are affected by the services delivered by or on behalf of the Council.

The Council recognises that Derbyshire County Council's (DCC) Children's Social Care Service and the police are the lead agencies in the Council with regard to child protection. The Council also recognises that everyone has a responsibility for child protection, including all employees and Councillors who come into contact with children and young people. Young people and families within our community also have a role to play as well as the community at large.

As a service provider the Council is committed to equality. The Council will endeavour to work with parents and other relevant parties to organise the environment and to plan activities to ensure that all children and young people are able to take part at levels appropriate to their needs. Language and cultural requirements will also be taken into account. It considers that all children and young people should be treated equally and fairly.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Members are asked to consider the policy aims, roles and responsibilities and associated procedures.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: There are minor costs associated with staff training and the processing of Disclosure and Barring Service Checks (DBS) – previously known as Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks for all staff and volunteers who have direct or indirect contact with children and vulnerable adults. These will be paid for out of existing departmental budgets.

Legal: The Council has a duty of care to safeguard children under the Children's Acts 1989 and 2004.

Human Resources: Lead officers are identified as the Council's core team for Child Protection issues, these are SAMT Lead Officer, Safeguarding Lead Officer and 5 Child Protection Link Officers – these position and duties will be part of their existing role.

RECOMMENDATION

To approve the Child Protection Policy.

REASON FOR DECISION

To meet our duty under section 11 of the Children's Act 2004.

ATTACHMENTS:

FILE REFERENCE:

SOURCE DOCUMENT: