

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	10
Date:	3 February 2014	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Child Protection Update		
Report by:	Housing Enforcement Manager		
Other Officers Involved	None		
Director	Executive Director of Transformation		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A Syrett, Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities by effective management of the Council’s property assets

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation by the acquisition of software to improve the management of the Council’s land and property assets.

TARGETS

By managing the Council’s property assets more efficiently and contributing to corporate savings and efficiencies.

VALUE FOR MONEY

By ensuring that the Council obtains best value from its property assets.

THE REPORT

This paper provides Executive with an update on activity around Child Protection for Bolsover District Council.

In August 2013, Executive approved the Council’s revised Child Protection Policy.

The following Safeguarding Link Officers were agreed as:

- Paul Hackett – SAMT Lead
- Deborah Whallett – Lead Safeguarding Link Officer

- Allison Westray - Chapman
- Lee Hicken
- Jane Lapins
- Janice Barltrop
- Melanie Osborne

As part of the process for publicising this policy, staff were made aware via ERIC and a new dedicated safeguarding page is now available.

It has also been agreed that a staff briefing card (which covers Child and Adult Safeguarding) is developed for all staff outlining signs of abuse, how to refer in an emergency and contact details for all the Safeguarding Link Officers. The card will be used for both NEDDC and Bolsover DC staff. This will be issued in Quarter 1 2014 via payslips

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

There has been no internal child protection training provided in the last 12 months. In previous years the Council benefited from training from Derbyshire County Council's Children's Safeguarding team. This specialised training is no longer available and DCC have urged us to use the multi agency training which is provided on an ongoing basis. Internal delivery options are currently being explored including a 'train the trainer' and e-delivery modules option. This is likely to be more cost effective.

Human Resources are now looking at an audit of staff who will be required to go on both safeguarding children and vulnerable adults training. It should be noted that previous cabinet reports have agreed that this should be mandatory for certain members of staff who come into contact with children. A meeting of the Safeguarding Link Officers was held in December to look at how training and controls around safeguarding could be developed across NEDDC and Bolsover.

Since January 2013 there has been 7 referrals to DCC regarding child protection issues. Three of the referrals were received from the Housing Department, one from the Domestic Violence officer, two from the ASB Case Worker and one from a Repairs operative.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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 back filling of roles for staff who were attending training.

There will be a cost for producing the briefing cards for all staff and members. This will be met from Leisure Services budgets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Executive note the report.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To provide Executive with an update on child protection issues.