

**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee on  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Safeguarding Policy and Procedures – Protecting Children and Adults at Risk**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, Health & Wellbeing**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Deborah Whallett Housing Services Manager

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To seek the Scrutiny Committee's comments on the proposed Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Protecting Children and Adults at Risk.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1 Background**

- 1.1 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.
- 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). It was agreed at a recent 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. Therefore, the policy appended to this report has been developed to complement DCC's Safeguarding Policy and procedures and has the approval of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Boards. This policy sets out the 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.

- 1.4 The current Adult Safeguarding Policy and Children Safeguarding Policy are separate policies and are not due to expire until 2025. If adopted the proposed policy will act as a single policy document and will replace the two existing safeguarding policies.
- 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. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The purpose of the proposed 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.
- 2.4 The Council will raise awareness of the new policy, along with the associated information sheets, by publishing on the Council's intranet and website.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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 It is the responsibility of the Scrutiny Committee to consider or examine proposed Council policies strategies or plans within the remit of the Executive.

#### 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.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To consider and provide comment on the draft of the Derbyshire wide policy - Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Protecting Children and Adults at Risk.

Approved by Councillor Mary Dooley Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, Health & Wellbeing

#### **IMPLICATIONS.**

**Finance and Risk:** Yes  No

**Details:** 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.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):** Yes  No

**Details:** 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.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Environment:** Yes  No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

**Details:** N/A

**Staffing:** Yes  No

**Details:** There are no staffing implications arising from this report

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

## DECISION INFORMATION

<p><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:</p> <p><b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b>  <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	<p>No</p>

<p><b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b></p>	<p>All indirectly</p>
<p><b>Consultation:</b>  <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>Details:</b>  The Safeguarding Leads for each local authority has been consulted and Derbyshire District Council's Safeguarding boards</p>

<p><b>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, and Environment.</b></p>
<p>The policy links to the Council's corporate plan by creating;</p> <p>A great place where people can live well;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community with lifelong good health.</li> <li>• A place to live that people value.</li> <li>• A place where people enjoy spending time.</li> </ul> <p>A great place to access a good public service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the district.</li> <li>• Continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money.</li> </ul>

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Safeguarding Policy and Procedures - 'Protecting Children and Adults at Risk'
2	Information Sheet - Children at risk of Exploitation (CRE)
3	Information Sheet – Domestic Abuse
4	Information Sheet – Hate Crime
5	Information Sheet – Modern Slavery
6	Information Sheet – PREVENT
7	Guidelines for photography and filming at Council managed facilities and events
<p><b>Background Papers</b> (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 Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
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 council's 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.