



CABINET: 12 March 2019

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**Report of: Director of Leisure and Environment**

**Relevant Portfolio Holder : Councillor Y. Gagen**

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**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REVISED SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

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Wards affected: Borough Wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the revised Safeguarding Policy to Cabinet for adoption.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Safeguarding Policy 2019 attached at Appendix 1 be approved.

2.2 That the Director of Leisure & Environment be authorised to Implement, publish and keep under review the Safeguarding Policy 2019 and to update the Safeguarding Policy 2019 as necessary; and nominate an officer as the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

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### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 Safeguarding, in the context of this report, is the means by which agencies and organisations working with children and vulnerable adults take to ensure the risks of harm to the individual's welfare are minimised.

3.2 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals, including Local Authorities to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, or otherwise arrange are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In discharging that duty the Council must have regard to any advice given to them by the Secretary of State.

- 3.3 Section 2 of the Care Act 2014 requires Local Authorities, which in West Lancashire is the County Council, to ensure that the wellbeing and the rights of vulnerable adults must always be promoted and poor practice challenged. Whilst this function is primarily the responsibility of Social Services and would therefore be discharged by Lancashire County Council, it is a statutory duty for all organisations that work with children and vulnerable adults to share the commitment and responsibilities of upper tier authorities in relation to the safeguarding requirements.
- 3.4 In keeping with the requirement to comply with upper tier authorities in their safeguarding responsibilities, WLBC are required to have appropriate policies in place, identify a Designated Safeguarding Officer (senior board level lead to take leadership responsibility for the organisations safeguarding arrangements) and to undertake an annual Section 11 Safeguarding Audit.
- 3.5 The 2018 Section 11 Audit, which was reported to senior officers on 9th May 2018, contains information on how WLBC complies with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) requirements to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. This work was initiated by the Deputy Director of Leisure & Wellbeing who currently represents WLBC at the Lancashire Designated Safeguarding Officers Group and the South Ribble, Chorley & West Lancashire Children's Trust.
- 3.6 Having reviewed the previous submission it was felt appropriate to seek input from across the Council to confirm that the previously stated position remained valid. An inter-service working group was subsequently established to review the Audit and the Council's Safeguarding Policy.
- 3.7 This exercise highlighted a need to revise the Safeguarding Policy so as to ensure the Council continues to comply with its safeguarding requirements. Following this other actions can be completed, most notably staff training and awareness raising along with the formal identification of a WLBC Designated Safeguarding Officer which will be reflected in the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation.
- 3.8 The Safeguarding policy will need to be updated periodically to reflect any changes that may be necessary due to changes in legislation, emerging best practice, feedback from the Local Safeguarding Board etc. Any update will be publicised in accordance with requirements for the time being in force.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The revised Safeguarding Policy has now been completed and is included at Appendix 1 –West Lancashire Borough Council: Safeguarding Policy 2019. Due to the level of detail contained within the revised policy, a quick reference guide has also been produced which is included in Appendix 2- . West Lancashire Borough Council: Safeguarding Summary Document 2019.
- 4.2 The Policy covers a range of issues which together will promote good practice, provide children and vulnerable adults with appropriate safety/protection, and allows Council representatives to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues that may arise.

#### 4.3 The revised Safeguarding Policy includes:-

- Policy statement
- Roles and responsibilities
- Recognising abuse
- Response procedures
- Recruitment, employment and redeployment procedures
- Code of conduct
- Partnership working, voluntary organisations and contractors
- Use of photographic equipment at organised events

4.4 Many of the gaps identified by the Section 11 Safeguarding Audit are addressed by the revision of the Safeguarding Policy. It is therefore recommended that this Policy be adopted by Cabinet to enable the other actions to be progressed, in particular the staff training and awareness raising elements.

#### 5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Compliance with Safeguarding policy will ensure that this Council complies with its safeguarding obligations as set out in section 3.2-3.4 of this report.

#### 6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 All staff will be required to undertake safeguarding training which will be developed in conjunction with neighbouring authorities as an e-learning package. The vast majority of staff will undertake Level 1 training which will be available at no extra cost to the Council, however, Officers required to fulfil specific roles set out in the revised policy or those requiring enhanced DBS clearance to fulfil their job description will need more detailed (Level2) training for which there will be an additional cost. It is estimated there will be a one off cost of c£3,000 with funding being made available from the Corporate Training Budget. A timetable for the implementation of staff training will be agreed following the adoption of the policy and the allocation of resources, however it is anticipated that all staff will be trained within 2019.

#### 7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 Safeguarding is a statutory responsibility for Local Authorities, and whether directly through its own actions and operations, or indirectly through a duty to support and share the commitment and responsibilities of the upper tier authority, a failure to comply with the safeguarding regulations could result in legal action being taken against the Council.

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#### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - WLBC revised Safeguarding Policy 2019

Appendix 2 - WLBC Revised Safeguarding Policy 2019: Summary Document  
Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment