

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –17 JANUARY 2017

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK POLICY
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee two new draft safeguarding policies, the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy and the Safeguarding Children Policy.
- 1.2 The proposed new policies are in line with current legislation and follow the recommendations made by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Safeguarding Children Boards.
- 1.3 Once approved the policies will replace the council's and the housing trust's respective existing safeguarding policies.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorses the new safeguarding policies and recommends their approval to Cabinet.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 Following the re-integration of the Housing Service back into the council in February 2017 a new council-wide Safeguarding Steering Group has been created with the aim of reviewing current arrangements for managing safeguarding and developing a new standardised approach across the council.
- 3.2 The Safeguarding Steering Group has developed two revised policies which will replace the previously published policies for Welwyn Hatfield Community Housing Trust and Welwyn Hatfield Council. The proposed new policies are fully compliant with legislative requirements.
- 3.3 The proposed new safeguarding policies provide a framework for ensuring that our commitment towards protecting vulnerable individuals is reflected in our interactions with customers and our employees.
- 3.4 The policies explain how we will approach safeguarding issues and what measures we will take where concerns have been identified. The policies each provide definitions of the various types of abuse and they make reference to other linked strategies and policies which have previously been adopted by the council.
- 3.5 A comprehensive set of operational procedures have been produced alongside these policies. These will be made available on the council's intranet and a range of training sessions are in progress to communicate clearly to employees

what is expected of them, depending on their particular job roles. In addition a Members' briefing is also being planned.

- 3.6 In recognition of the fact that safeguarding issues are addressed effectively when carried out in partnership with others, the policies make regular reference to the other organisations we work with and the principles of effective and safe partnership working.

4 Financial Implication(s)

- 4.1 The Safeguarding policies will be implemented within existing service budgets.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The proposed new policies are compliant with the following legislation:

Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy: Care Act 2014; Mental Capacity Act 2005; Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2008.

Safeguarding Children Policy: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989; Childrens Acts 1989 and 2004

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 These policies set out the council's approach to mitigate the risks posed to vulnerable adults and the children in our communities.
- 6.2 Failure to raise staff/Member awareness of safeguarding issues and how to address them and failure to have appropriate procedures in place to report suspected safeguarding issues will create a risk not only to the adults and children involved, but also carries significant reputational risk to the council. These policies cover the above issues and such their approval and subsequent implementation will mitigate this risk.

7 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

- 7.1 Both of these policies set out the council's commitment to following government guidelines in relation to the PREVENT (anti-radicalisation) initiative. As such there will be a positive impact in relation to the threat of terrorism.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are no direct procurement implications associated with this recommendation.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications associated with this recommendation.

10 Link to Corporate Priorities

10.1 The subject of this report is linked specifically to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Maintain a safe and healthy community by

- Working with partners to keep people safe
- Helping to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of residents.

11 Equality and Diversity

11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out on 10 January 2018. No negative impact was identified on any of the protected groups under Equalities legislation.

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Date 3 January 2018

Attached: Appendix 1 Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy
Appendix 2 – Safeguarding Children Policy