

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Safeguarding Policy

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the Council be recommended to approve the revised Safeguarding Policy.**
- 2.2. That the Head of Community Services be authorised to approve minor amendments to the Policy in line with local working arrangements.**

3. Background

- 3.1. In 2013, the Council approved a combined “Safeguarding Policy” following an assessment of its safeguarding procedures by Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Subsequent changes in national policy, most noticeably the introduction of the Care Act 2014, with obligations for local authorities with effect from April 2015, and national guidance including “Working Together” have prompted a review of the existing policy.
- 3.2. In considering local working arrangements, any policy developed by the Council should be compliant with the revised Pan Sussex Safeguarding procedures. At a County level, there are distinct arrangements for Safeguarding Adults, and Safeguarding Children and Young People. However, the policy approved in 2013 was a combined policy, which remains relevant to the roles and responsibilities of staff at this Council.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1. To provide a comprehensive policy and guide on Safeguarding matters for use by all relevant parties.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. The Policy (see Appendix) has been brought up to date to align with changes to national policy, local working arrangements with the relevant statutory partnerships and internal restructuring. The Policy is recommended for approval to Council.
- 5.2. The review of the previous policy identified a number of areas where the policy repeated itself or duplicated existing policy elsewhere in the organisation. The new, much shortened new policy has clear cross referencing to other Council policies or external websites. The key changes are:
 - (a) The inclusion of specific references to the Care Act, in particular the definition of an “Adult” for the purposes of Safeguarding.
 - (b) Changes to key staff and responsibilities following the internal management restructure.
 - (c) Changes in reporting arrangements following changes to West Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board, West Sussex County Council and the formation of the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board.
 - (d) For brevity, areas of policy have either been removed (e.g. relevant and historic legislation) or covered by detailed guidance within appendices (e.g. types of abuse, Guidance on managing vicarious liabilities etc).
 - (e) A renewed focus on aligning the policy in relation to both Adults and Children, with more topics moved into the generic sections of the Policy. Separate sections on Children or Adult Safeguarding are only for Policy that is unique to that heading.

6. Consultation

- 6.1. The Chichester District Safeguarding Group (CDSG), an officer group representing a wide range of Council departments, has coordinated the work on the revised policy and will arrange for the delivery of the training requirements. The CDSG will continue to meet and monitor safeguarding matters.
- 6.2. Members’ interests are represented by Cllr Mrs Lintill, who attends Safeguarding Group meetings.
- 6.3. Consultation has taken place with the staff via the Joint Employee Consultative Panel on the 29 June 2015 and through Unison.

7. Community impact and corporate risks

- 7.1. An up-to-date and robust Safeguarding Policy should further assist Council officers to ensure the protection of children and adults at risk.

8. Other Implications

Crime & Disorder: See paragraph 7.1	Yes	
Climate Change:		No
Human Rights and Equality Impact: This policy has positive impacts as it prioritises the welfare of adults or young people who are at risk.	Yes	
Safeguarding: This policy is the Council's key policy statement on safeguarding and will have a positive impact on the protection of children and adults at risk	Yes	

9. Appendix

9.1. Appendix: Safeguarding Policy

(The Policy is available in the supplementary appendices pack on the Council's website; it is printed for members of the Cabinet.)

10. Background Papers

10.1. Safeguarding Policy Equality Impact Assessment