

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Cllr Paul Claussen, Executive Member for Place

To: Council 24th January 2019

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Subject: Safeguarding Policy

This Policy is for Members information only

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The new Safeguarding Policy has been through Overview and Scrutiny Commission who asked that the policy is presented to Council for information. The approval of the policy is a Cabinet decision and Cabinet have approved the policy on 27th November 2018.
- 1.2 Safeguarding encompasses legal duties and responsibilities to protect people's health, wellbeing and human rights, supporting them to prevent problems from escalating and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.
- 1.3 District Councils have a range of statutory duties to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of individuals and communities which complement but do not duplicate those of our partners. We work with a wide range of partners including: Children's Services; Adult Social Care; Health; Police; voluntary organisations and may more.
- 1.4 This Council embraces its duties and responsibilities to keep people safe. A policy ensures that we fulfil our legal duties, taking consistent and effective action to protect those who need safeguarding. This includes:
- Having effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place
 - Having a workforce who know how to identify concerns
 - Referring concerns to partner agencies
 - Working closely with partners (e.g. police, social care, etc)
 - Undertaking regular audit and scrutiny to test our effectiveness.
- 1.5 This policy and its related procedures apply to and must be available to and followed by all staff, councillors, volunteers, and contractors or consultants working on behalf of and/or representing the Council.
- 1.6 An up to date detailed policy is a key tool which goes some way to enabling us to demonstrate compliance with our obligations as a District Council under the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014.
- 1.7 Breckland Council has had a Child Protection Policy in place for many years which has been due a refresh. It was agreed that the Council also needed to ensure that a policy in relation to safeguarding adults was adopted, so a joint policy has now been developed.

- 1.8 The Safeguarding Policy has been developed in consultation with the Norfolk Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards. Much of the detail in the policy is there to reflect the Boards' current positions and protocols on safeguarding.
- 1.9 The policy sets the strategic position and outlines key information in relation to safeguarding. Procedures have also been written for staff to provide information and processes in more detail. The procedures relate to key areas including: Children; Adults; Domestic Abuse; Hate crime; Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking; PREVENT and radicalisation.
- 1.10 Internally, safeguarding is governed by a Strategic Board which is chaired by the Executive Director of Strategy and Governance who is also the Council's Designated Safeguarding Officer. Underneath this board there is an Operational Safeguarding Group which meets regularly and is made up of officers across the Council whose role touches safeguarding: such as Housing and Community Safety. This is facilitated by the Council's two Deputy Safeguarding Lead Officers. In order to support this important work, an internal secondment has now been recruited to, for a 12 month Safeguarding Officer post.

Background papers:-

Care Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

Children Act 2004

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>

Government Guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children"

<https://www.norfolkscb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Working-Together-to-Safeguard-Children-2018.pdf>

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Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A

Safeguarding Policy