

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 4 January 2022

Reporting officer: Director (Communities)
Lead Safeguarding Officer

Subject: Updated Safeguarding Policy

Purpose and summary of report:

To present an updated version of the Council's Safeguarding Policy.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet agree the revised Safeguarding Policy.

1. Policy Updates

- 1.1 The Council's Safeguarding Policy requires regular update to reflect any changes in legislation and procedure. A revised Safeguarding Policy is attached as Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The policy has been given a general refresh, with a few key changes to note:

Policy_Aims and Scope

- 1.3 Additional information has been included in this section, specifically at paragraphs 2.5 to 2.7 which clarify the Council's responsibilities towards all adults, survivors of domestic abuse and those with no recourse to public funds.
- 1.4 In line with the 2018 update of the Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance, Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) has now become the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) with the Police and Health Services taking a shared lead role alongside Kent County Council.

Roles and Responsibilities

- 1.5 There is now a table of roles and responsibilities at paragraph 4.2 to clarify how the Safeguarding agenda impacts each officer and Member.

Reporting Procedure

- 1.6 The reporting process has been updated to include the Lead Safeguarding Officer role. Links to the relevant referral forms and a Safeguarding Concern DASH form are included within the reporting procedure in paragraph 6.6.
- 1.7 Changes to the process in the case of an allegation against a council officer; The LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) service previously existed to support organisations in the case of an allegation against a staff member, but now that only exists in the case of concerns that may put a child/children at risk, not adults. Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board has now produced a document to guide organisations through the use of their own policies and procedures, including referrals to statutory services where necessary.
- 1.8 Appendix 3 has been updated to add the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to the list of relevant legislation.
- 1.9 Appendix 4 now recognises, under HR responsibilities, the training of staff including new starters into the organisation.
- 1.10 The graphic at Appendix 6 has been amended to summarise reporting procedures and Safeguarding Champions. This will be made available to staff.
- 1.11 Safeguarding Champions have been updated in Appendix 8.

2. Practical implications for the Council

- 2.1 The updated Policy continues the role of Safeguarding Champions within each department of the Council. This role is further utilised in the Council's approach to addressing Modern Slavery, with the Safeguarding Champions soon being trained in completing NRM (National Referral Mechanism) referrals for victims of Modern Slavery to create a pool of officers able to do this critical work.

3. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 3.1 The revised Safeguarding Policy 2021 is attached as Appendix 2.

Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, be directed to Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

IMPLICATIONS	APPENDIX 1
Legal	The Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) document and the Care Act (2014) place a statutory on local authorities to follow Safeguarding procedures.
Finance and Value for Money	No additional funding is required
Risk Assessment	Safeguarding legislation requires certain responsibilities to be fulfilled as a minimum and that due regard be given to Government guidance issued in carrying out duties. Failure to discharge the duty imposed may result in the Secretary of State giving directions for the purpose of enforcing the performance of the duty.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i>
	<p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offence data? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links.</p>
	<p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? No</p>
	<p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk.</p>
Equality Impact Assessment	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No, this policy aims to reduce adverse impacts on vulnerable groups</p>
	<p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. Yes. This policy directly supports equality by promoting the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults</p>
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
Corporate Plan	The policy outlines how the Council will achieve an element of Strategic Objective 1 from the Corporate Plan; People: Safeguard Residents
Climate Change	n/a
Crime and Disorder	Protecting Vulnerable People and Strengthening Communities
Digital and website implications	n/a

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

This Safeguarding Policy sets out how children and vulnerbale adults are to be safeguarded.