

For publication

Approval of Chesterfield Borough Council's revised Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (HW000)

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 17 March, 2020

Cabinet portfolio: Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Report by: Assistant Director – Policy and Communications

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1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To present for approval the council's updated safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' policy and procedures.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the revised safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' policy and procedures are approved.

2.2 That the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing is given delegated authority to approve essential safeguarding policy and procedure amendments between the formal review periods.

2.3 That a review of the safeguarding policy, procedures and arrangements takes place after a further three years.

3.0 **Background**

- 3.1 In September 2019 Derby and Derbyshire merged the oversight of their Safeguarding Children arrangements. The two Safeguarding Children Boards are taking the opportunity provided by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to streamline and realign their activities together in a single partnership – the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- 3.2 Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group and Derbyshire Constabulary (the statutory partners) are working in partnership with relevant agencies such as health providers, schools and education settings, probation providers and district councils to challenge and hold each other to account as to how they are keeping children safe.
- 3.3 The purpose of local arrangements is to support and enable organisations and agencies across Derby and Derbyshire to work together to ensure that:
- Children are safe and their health and welfare is promoted
 - Children experience effective care and support
 - Children are enabled to achieve the best outcomes
 - There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats across the area
 - Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services can become more reflective and implement changes to practice identified as positive for children and families
 - Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families
- 3.4 Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) is a multi-agency strategic partnership, which ensures and oversees the

effectiveness of arrangements made by individual agencies to safeguard adults who have care and support needs or are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect. DSAB was originally established under the Department of Health guidance 'No Secrets (2000)' and now is on a statutory footing under the Care Act 2014.

- 3.5 The main objective of a SAB is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act effectively to help and protect adults in its area who:
- have needs for care and support
 - are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
 - as a result of their care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or experience of abuse or neglect
- 3.6 Chesterfield Borough Council is an active partner in both the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board. We also work with other district councils across Derbyshire to improve our safeguarding activity via the Derbyshire Safeguarding Group which is a formal sub group of both partnerships.

4.0 Safeguarding improvements

- 4.1 In June 2015 a safeguarding audit was carried out to consider if improvements could be made to our safeguarding arrangements. Several areas for improvement were identified and an action plan developed. Chesterfield Borough Council has worked with Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire district councils to ensure we have a solid safeguarding foundation in order to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults within our borough.
- 4.2 Key improvements made since 2015 include:
- Designated Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Management Team leads for safeguarding

- Designated safeguarding leads have been identified in each service area
- CBC (and service delivery partners Arvato and Kier) Safeguarding Group established to review and monitor relevant policies, procedures and practices, identify, support and share best practice and to consider emerging issues
- Derbyshire districts safeguarding group established with support from Derbyshire County Council. This ensures district views are represented at partnerships, key messages are cascaded and that peer to peer support is available
- New safeguarding children and vulnerable adults policy and procedures approved with a commitment to a review a minimum of every two years
- Other key policies and procedures including whistle blowing, disclosure and barring, code of conduct, recruitment and selection and procurement have been updated or are in the process of being updated to support safeguarding improvement
- Voluntarily publish an annual Modern Slavery Statement and have improved response utilising the Modern Slavery Charter which the Council signed in December 2018
- Contract information has been reviewed and improved for key service areas
- Updated communication and resources available to all staff via aspire and safeguarding information posters displayed in all staff areas
- Training programme including e-learning and face to face briefings available to all staff and members. Relevant employees are also accessing more specialist training organised by safeguarding boards and Safer Derbyshire as appropriate
- The council is committed to engage with Derbyshire County Council audit processes annually and have added safeguarding to the internal audit programme of work with regular reviews scheduled

5.0 Updated safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' policy and procedures

- 5.1 Following the 2015 safeguarding review a priority action was updating the council's safeguarding policy and procedures which were approved in December 2015 and revised in February 2017. We made a commitment to review this policy and procedure a least every two years.
- 5.2 The Chesterfield Borough Council safeguarding group have reviewed the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults' policy and procedures for the period 2020 – 2022. Changes in national legislation and guidance, updated partnership policies, Derbyshire districts safeguarding group, audit activity and increased service level safeguarding experience have been used to review the policy and procedures.
- 5.3 The updated policy and procedures is attached at appendix A.

6.0 Risk management

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Actions	Residual Impact	Residual Likelihood
Inadequate policies, procedures, learning and development and partnership working to safeguard children and vulnerable adults living in our communities and using our services, and to protect the council, its staff (including agency staff), elected members and volunteers.	H	M	<p>Completion of the safeguarding action plan.</p> <p>Engaging in the annual DCC audit process and continuing to support effective partnership arrangements.</p> <p>Regular internal audits.</p> <p>Reviewing safeguarding arrangements,</p>	H	L

			policies and procedures at a minimum two yearly intervals.		
Staff and elected members not engaging effectively in safeguarding issues leading to the under-reporting of concerns.	H	M	Mandatory safeguarding training and regular briefings to encourage engagement. Regular reviews of safeguarding concerns and actions by CBC safeguarding group.	H	L

7.0 Equalities

7.1 Equality analysis of the safeguarding approach has been considered and no negative impacts for protected characteristics identified. These arrangements make significant positive contributions to all groups but in particular children and vulnerable adults.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 That the revised safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' policy and procedures are approved.

8.2 That the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing is given delegated authority to approve essential safeguarding policy and procedure amendments between the formal review periods.

8.3 That a review of the safeguarding policy, procedures and arrangements takes place after a further three years.

9.0 Reason for recommendations

- 9.1 To effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults within our borough and meet our legislative and partnership responsibilities.

Decision information

Key decision number	922
Wards affected	ALL

Document information

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Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	Safeguarding policy and procedures