

## Report of the Chief Executive

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY**1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for a revised Safeguarding Children Policy.

2. Detail

Broxtowe Borough Council has a specific statutory duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements for ensuring that its functions, and services provided on its behalf, are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Government Guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

As such, Broxtowe Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that employees are competent and confident in carrying out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This includes ensuring employees are aware of how to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns, including signs of possible maltreatment. The e-learning for Safeguarding Children is a compulsory module for all staff. Each year the Chief Executive chairs two meetings attended by senior offices of each department where adult and children safeguarding is discussed, including presentation of relevant data.

In 2016/17, 11 safeguarding children referrals were made by the Council (six referrals comprising one set of three siblings, three sets of two siblings and two individuals) and in 2017/18, 13 safeguarding children referrals were made (six referrals comprising two sets of two siblings, one set of four siblings and three sets of two individuals). The Safeguarding Children Policy attached at appendix 1 sets out how Broxtowe Borough Council will meet its obligations. An equality impact assessment is included at appendix 2. It is a revised and updated version of the Safeguarding Children Policy agreed by Cabinet in 2015. The main changes are around the reporting structures and changes to the county wide safeguarding children structures.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the revised Safeguarding Children Policy be approved.**

Background papers

Nil