

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety

Revised Safeguarding Children Policy 2025-281. Purpose of Report

To review and approve the revised Safeguarding Children Policy 2025-28. This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority of Community Safety.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the revised Safeguarding Children Policy 2025-28 be approved.

3. Detail

The 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, the Council is responsible for ensuring that Members and employees, including those who are under contract, 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 Safeguarding Children Policy sets out how the Council will meet its obligations. It is a revised version of the Safeguarding Children Policy agreed by the Community Safety Committee in 2022.

The revised Safeguarding Children Policy can be found at **Appendix 1**. The change table can be found at **Appendix 2**. The Council's safeguarding data for 2024 can be found at **Appendix 3**. The Equality Impact Assessment can be found at **Appendix 4**.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and will be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Policy Overview Working Group recommended that the Revised Childrens Safeguarding Policy be approved at its meeting of 5 June 2025.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider at this stage with ongoing business as usual activities being met within existing resources. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on the Council when providing services to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The introduction section of this policy sets out the duties from the Children Act 2004 and the Government guidance 'Working together to Safeguard Children 2018'.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is a change to policy an equality impact assessment is included in the appendix to this report.

13. Background Papers

Nil.