

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Head of Neighbourhood Services

Officer Making the Decision

Chief Executive

Recommendation

That the attached revised children and young people safeguarding policy is adopted.

Reason

To ensure that Charnwood Borough Council continues to comply with our legal and statutory duties in relation to children, young people and adults in need of safeguarding.

Authority for Decision

Delegated Authority for adopting updates to the children and young people and adults in need of safeguarding policies was granted to the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing at Cabinet on 18th March 2010 (minute 178 refers).

Decision and Date



29/11/19

Background

These policies are designed to ensure that Charnwood's members and staff are equipped with the knowledge and information to enable them to follow Charnwood's children and young people and adults in need of safeguarding responsibilities.

The policies were formally adopted as a joint document by Cabinet at its meeting on 18th December 2008 (minute 123 refers). An update was approved by Cabinet on 18th March 2010 and Delegated Authority given to the Director of Leisure and Environment, now the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing to make future changes to the safeguarding policy (minute 178 refers). On 27th October 2011, approval was sought and granted from Cabinet to separate the children and young people and adults in need of safeguarding policies (minute 64 refers). The policies were last updated in 2017 and are reviewed every two years.

The policies have been developed and revised in conjunction with the Leicestershire District Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO) Group (formally the District Implementation Group). This group supports District Councils to adhere to our legal duties within the Children Act 2004 and those set out by the Local Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards. The County DSO Group have jointly reviewed and adopted the changes to the policies.

It is the responsibility of the Council to report any concerns regarding the welfare of children and young people or adults in need of safeguarding. This duty extends to the identification of possible abuse, poor practice by internal members / staff of the Council, as well as allegations brought to the attention of the Council by a member of the public/ community.

It is important to be aware that Charnwood has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure the duty of care for children and adults in need of safeguarding across all of its services. We are committed to ensuring that all children and adults in need of safeguarding are protected and kept safe from harm whilst engaged in services organised by the Council.

Safeguarding Children

The legal obligations concerning children and young people are outlined in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. The review of the children and young people's safeguarding policy has taken account of all relevant legislation.

The District Council is a statutory partner of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). As such, employees, volunteers and elected members should follow Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures found on www.lrsb.org.uk/children. The review of the children and young people's safeguarding policy has taken account of the LSCBs locally agreed procedures.

Section 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004 has been supported through the introduction of Early Help throughout Leicestershire. Early Help and associated procedures aims to assess additional needs of children and young people at an early stage at thresholds below that of safeguarding, supporting early identification, intervention, inter agency referral and multi agency working. The introduction of Early Help and the dual purpose of the Multi Agency Referral Form (used for referrals for safeguarding and Early Help threshold concerns) provides Designated Safeguarding Officers with an additional mechanism to seek additional help for families.

Changes which apply to both policies

Contact names and numbers have been updated where necessary. The policy refers to General Data Protection Regulations and how this interacts with safeguarding. The Designated Safeguarding Officers have decided to retain the current Safeguarding Incident Report Form format rather than update it in line with the new Leicestershire Multi Agency Referral Form for children as they feel the current format is well understood and works for the Council.

Guidance, developed in conjunction with the Designated Safeguarding Officer team, has been included for staff responding to threats of suicide and self harm. Customers and residents who threaten to kill or harm themselves has been identified as a theme that is dealt with relatively regularly by staff. For children and young people under the age of 18 this would be dealt with as safeguarding.

For adults, whilst threats of suicide and self harm are always concerning, it is only safeguarding if the adult meets the definition of an adult in need of safeguarding as contained within the policy. In recognition that one of the important features of suicide prevention work is to encourage people who are at risk to seek help as early as possible, the Designated Safeguarding Officers have developed guidance intended to support staff who are faced with difficult situations. This acknowledges both that all areas of the local authority can play a role in preventing suicide and that the DSOs can support this by centrally recording incidents where a serious intent has been established to help to ensure that any patterns of behavior are identified and appropriate safeguarding actions are undertaken. Suicide and self harm training is being rolled out across the authority from the latter part of 2019.

Financial Implications

The actions necessitated by the policies will be delivered within existing resources.

Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
Failure to adhere to the policies and appropriately report concerns results in people having access to the services they need to ensure their welfare	Moderate	Moderate to High	Publicise the policies, ensure appropriate training is in place and maintain the Designated Safeguarding Officer system to inform and support staff and members to report concerns
Information security breached when referring concerns outside of the Council	Moderate	Moderate to High	Secure intranet site for electronic storage/ sharing of information and regular DSO meetings to ensure referral routes to children and adults social care are clear. Council to council and council to police emails are now considered secure enough to not require specific secure email addresses which will support information sharing
Changes in government policy that impact on current safeguarding policies	Moderate	Moderate	Monitor for changes and ensure policies are amended accordingly

Key Decision:

No

Background Papers:

Children and Young Peoples Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines 2017

Adults in Need of Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines 2017

Children and Young Peoples Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines 2015

Adults in Need of Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines 2015

Children and Young Peoples Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines 2011

Adults in Need of Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines 2011

Minute 64 27/10/11 Cabinet

Minute 178 18/03/10 Cabinet

Minute 123 18/12/08 Cabinet

Minute 124 24/04/08 Cabinet

Delegated Decisions 33 08/09, 49 09/10, 77 15/16 and 108 17/18