

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Adoption of the Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk of Harm Policy

Meeting/Date: Cabinet – 18th April 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services, Councillor M A Hassall

Report by: Lead Safeguarding Officer

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

Huntingdonshire District Council has worked in partnership in a Countywide Safeguarding Policy review that included recommendations from the Independent Safeguarding Partnership Team linked to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards (Children and Adults).

The template adopted was that of South Cambridgeshire District Council's as it had been identified as the one that had most recently been presented through a formal Committee approval process, February 22, and was taken to have the most up-to-date content.

Huntingdonshire District Council began its own Policy review in January 22. This coincided with the development of the Countywide Policy review, so the decision was taken to adopt the standardised template and present to the appropriate committees when complete.

The updated policy is entitled 'Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk of Harm Policy' and provides an overarching framework to the Council's approach to all safeguarding matters.

There have been no material changes to the guidance offered to staff in relation to reporting and recording procedures.

The amendments incorporated into the updated policy are to provide a single good practice reference point for matters relating to Children, Young People and Adults at Risk.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is

RECOMMENDED

to approve the updated Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk of Harm Policy.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Huntingdonshire District Council is a relevant agency in terms of safeguarding and child protection. This means the Council must:

- Fully engage with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safeguarding arrangements
- Ensure that the organisation works in accordance with the inter-agency safeguarding procedures
- Have appropriate robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place specifically relevant to the organisation
- Ensure that the workforce is appropriately skilled to recognise and respond to safeguarding matters

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 A formal review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy commenced in January 22. This review coincided with a Countywide review taking place and included recommendations from the Independent Safeguarding Partnership Team linked to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards (Children and Adults) and representatives from Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council; Cambridgeshire City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Fenland District Council

2.2 The South Cambridgeshire District Council Policy was adopted as the basis for the countywide template. This was due to it having been most recently adopted through a formal Committee structure in February 22.

2.3 Subsequently this template was updated to reflect the comments/advice provided by Sally Giddens, Practice Improvement and Development Lead, from the Independent Safeguarding Partnership Team linked to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards (Children and Adults).

2.4 Comments received were used to update the template. As a result of previous close working with Sally Giddens the adoption of the template has resulted solely in format changes and no changes to existing procedures used within Huntingdonshire District Council.

3. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

3.1 The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be circulated ahead of the Cabinet's meeting.

4. KEY IMPACTS

- 4.1 This policy is to ensure the Council meets its statutory safeguarding responsibilities and to incorporate good practice.
- 4.2 The amendments have been drafted with County wide colleagues to work towards greater consistency in Safeguarding policies.

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 Upon approval this Policy will replace the existing Safeguarding Policy on the Huntingdonshire District Council Safeguarding SharePoint site, be communicated directly to all Designated Safeguarding Officers, disseminated through standard information channels to all employees and incorporated into all future training sessions.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 This Policy will support staff and allow staff to support our residents needs and demonstrate that we are committed to ensuring that Huntingdonshire residents have the highest possible quality of life.
- 6.2 The adoption of this County wide template will also take a positive and proactive approach to joined up services for the benefit of our residents.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation on the production of this Policy has been undertaken with,
 - The Independent Safeguarding Partnership Team linked to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards (Children and Adults)
 - Local partner District Councils
 - Huntingdonshire District Council Safeguarding Board
 - Huntingdonshire District Council Service Managers identified as providing specific Council functions within the Policy.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications from this report.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No additional resource implications are expected from this report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 10.1 All organisations that make provision for children and adults at risk of harm must ensure that
- The welfare of the child or adult at risk of harm is paramount
 - All children, young people and adults at risk of harm have the right to protection from abuse. This applies regardless of, their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin religious beliefs and/or sexual identity.
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse and neglect are responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- 10.2 This policy applies to all staff, councillors, volunteers and contractors that work within the Council. The aim of this policy is to explain the Council's Safeguarding duty to protect the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk living in Huntingdonshire
- 10.3 This updated Policy demonstrates that Huntingdonshire District Council takes our responsibilities seriously and expect all staff, partners and contractors to share in this commitment.

11. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – HDC Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk of Harm Policy

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