Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Communities & Partnerships)
5th November 2026

Cabinet
17h November 2026
Report by: Lead Safeguarding Officer
Lead Cllr: Stephen Claffey
Portfolio holder for Climate, Transformation & Workforce

| Wards | Open / Exempt | Key Decision? |
|---|---|---|
| All | Open | No |

# Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk of Harm Policy Review

**Executive Summary:**

Huntingdonshire District Council established this Policy previously 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).

Huntingdonshire District Council introduced this agreed format policy following submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet and was formally published on 27th April 2023 with minor revisions issued on 05th June 2024.

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. It has served the authority within that time and has provided consistency in the approach for all staff.

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

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.

## Recommendations

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

1.2. To enable delegated authority to be given to the Safeguarding Lead to update the Policy in the event of Legislative updates that have no material change to the provision set out within this document.

| | **Key Corporate Plan Priorities** |
|---|---|
| 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. |
| 2 | The adoption of the County wide template will also take a positive and proactive approach to joined up services for the benefit of our residents. |

| | **Place Strategy Priorities** |
|---|---|
| 1 | *None* |
| 2 | |

**Report Author(s)**

Pete Corley, Lead Safeguarding Officer (Pete.Corley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 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 & CONTEXT

- A formal review of the Councils 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

- 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.

- 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).

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

- Huntingdonshire District Council introduced this agreed format policy following submission to Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet. It was formally published on 27th April 2023 with minor revisions issued on 05th June 2024.

## 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & NOT RECOMMENDED

- None

## 4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- The Overview & Scrutiny (Environment, Communities & Partnerships) Panel discussed the report at its meeting on 5th November 2026.

- It was clarified that all staff underwent annual safeguarding eLearning training and that a training session for Councillors had been run as part of the induction process in June 2026. It was noted that further opportunities for Councillor training were being investigated and that they would be communicated in due course. It was also advised that staff who required level two safeguarding undertook additional bi-annual training. The Panel were further assured that roles requiring a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check were checking upon the point of employment then every 3 years depending on continuous service in that role. The Panel were keen to see safeguarding training for Councillors become mandatory and requested for this matter to be brought to the Member Development Working Group.

- The Panel were assured that in the instance of sub-contractors requiring safeguarding and or a DBS check, this would be part of the contractual agreement with the vendor.

- Reassurance was given that all reported safeguarding concerns were dealt with swiftly and that there was resilience within the Council to ensure that all investigations could be dealt with impartially and without conflict of interest.

- Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision upon the recommendations within the report.

## 5. POST-DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 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. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

- **Council Key Priorities and Performance**
    - 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.
    - 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.

- **Financial Implications**
  There are no additional direct financial implications from this report.

- **Policy Implications**
  There are no additional direct policy implications from this report.

- **Legal & Constitutional Implications**
  There are no additional direct Legal & Constitutional implications from this report.

- **Community Impact**

There are no additional direct Community Impact from this report

- **Environment & Climate Change Implications**
  There are no additional direct Environment & Climate Change Implications from this report

- **Equality & Diversity Implications**
  There are no additional direct Equality and Diversity Implications from this report

- **Implications on Resources**
  There are no additional direct Implications on Resources from this report

- **Health & Wellbeing Implications**
  There are no additional direct Health and Wellbeing Implications from this report

- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Implications**
  The outcome of LGR will result in changes to the tier designation of all future authorities in some form.

## 7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Huntingdonshire District Council is identified in the Safeguarding Legislation as a Relevant Agency and as such is required to work with the statutory safeguarding partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Failure to adopt this Policy with result in an inability to demonstrate this responsibility and limit,

- Full engagement with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding arrangements
- Our ability to ensure that the organisation works in accordance with the inter-agency safeguarding procedures
- appropriate robust safeguarding policies and procedures specifically relevant to the organisation
- our ability to ensure that the workforce is appropriately skilled to recognise and respond to safeguarding matters.

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS– LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

- None