

COUNCIL

15 September 2015

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to secure Council adoption of the revised Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members:

- 1. Approve the draft Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy**
- 2. Endorse the Policy and its implementation**
- 3. Promote attendance at safeguarding training associated with the Policy**
- 4. Authorise the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer to disseminate the Policy throughout the Council**

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. The cost of training and materials will be met from existing budgets.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

The draft policy has been revised in line with the Working Together to Safeguard Children inter-agency guide 2015 and Care Act 2014 guidance. An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached at appendix B.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2008 Tamworth Borough Council has operated a reporting mechanism to protect children and vulnerable adults supported by a protection policy and officer involvement. The policy requires to be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that

best practice in this area is being maintained and adopted. Recent changes to legislation require to be incorporated in the current review. A copy of the revised Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy is attached at Appendix A. The draft Policy has been approved by the Portfolio for Communities and Public Health, the lead designated Child Protection Officer at Tamworth Borough Council and Corporate Management Team. On 13 August 2015 the draft Policy was presented to Healthier and Safer Scrutiny Committee who endorsed the draft Policy and have requested quarterly statistical reports on referrals made through the safeguarding channel at Tamworth Borough Council arising from and under the policy. The draft Policy is now submitted to Council for approval and endorsement.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

In order to comply with the statutory obligations of the Council it is necessary to review and maintain a Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tamworth Borough Council has both a legal and moral duty to protect vulnerable children and adults at risk from harm. The Children Act 1989 and 2004 along with associated statutory guidance sets out our legal responsibilities for protecting children. The Care Act 2014 and the accompanying statutory guidance recognises and reinforces that organisations make a significant contribution to adult safeguarding. As part of our ongoing commitment to these responsibilities the current policy has been revised in line with the Working Together to Safeguard Children document that was published in March 2015 and the Care Act 2014 guidance published by the Department of Health (DoH).

Each and every one of us have a duty to recognise and report safeguarding concerns. Thus any concerns that a child or an adult with care and support needs, is at risk of or is suffering abuse or neglect must be reported.

Concerns can come from a number of areas, through our contact with customers, visitors or from our partners. At Tamworth Borough Council we take our safeguarding duty seriously, and to support our policy and training, we launched an updated on-line reporting tool via our corporate CRM system. The system went live in April 2015. In the first quarter of this financial year - April 2015 to June 2015 - staff have raised 16 safeguarding concerns via the CRM system.

Between 1 Apr 2014 to 31 March 2015, 68 initial concerns were reported.

These concerns were raised by staff from the following teams – Housing Services (Estate Management, Housing Advice, Cleaning and Caretaking Services, Income Management), CCTV, Street Wardens, Housing Benefits and Customer Services.

The tables below show the recorded number of concerns that staff have raised through the council's safeguarding procedure. The figures are broken down into child/adult concerns, geographical area and abuse type.

Safeguarding Adult Concerns Raised by members of staff

April 2014 – March 2015

Ward	Number of Adult Concerns	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Financial Abuse	Welfare Concerns
Amington	5		1		1		3
<u>Belgrave</u>	4	1			1	1	1
Bolehall	1					1	
Castle	8		2			3	3
Glascote	4	1				2	1
Mercian							
Spital							
Stonydelph	4	1	1			2	
Trinity							
Wilnecote	2					1	1
No Fixed Abode	7						7
Non Tamworth Resident	3						3
Total	38	3	4		2	10	19

Safeguarding Children Concerns Raised by members of staff

April 2014 – March 2015

Ward	Number of Child Concerns	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Child Sexual Exploitation	Neglect	Welfare Concerns
Amington	2					1	1
<u>Belgrave</u>	4	2		1		1	
Bolehall	1					1	
Castle	2		1			1	
Glascote	2		1				1
Mercian	4		2			2	
Spital							
Stonydelph	10		1		1	8	
Trinity	1						1
Wilnecote	1					1	
No Fixed Abode	2						2
Non Tamworth Resident	1						1
Total	30	2	5	1	1	15	6

The revised policy and procedures has been reviewed by the Healthier & Safer Scrutiny Committee, Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board and the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership. The Safeguarding Children and Adult at Risk of Abuse and Neglect document is split into two sections with the first providing a policy context for the procedures which follow in section two.

REPORT AUTHOR

Jane Marie Hackett
Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015 DCSF)
Statutory Guidance Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
The Care Act 2014
Care and Support Statutory Guidance Issued under the Care Act 2014 (DoH)

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy
Appendix B - Equality Impact Assessment