

12th September 2013**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PUBLIC HOUSING &
VULNERABLE PEOPLE****SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION
POLICY****EXEMPT INFORMATION**

N/A

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to secure Members' approval to adopt the revised Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy (SCVAPP).

RECOMMENDATIONS**That Members:**

- 1. Approve the revised Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy**
- 2. Endorse the implementation of the policy and promote staff and Members attendance at the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection training associated with this policy**
- 3. Authorise the Director of Communities, Planning & Partnerships and the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer in collaboration with the Portfolio Holder for Public Housing & Vulnerable People to disseminate the Policy throughout the Council**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The revised Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy attached at appendix A has been developed with other Staffordshire Local Authorities using Tamworth's previous CVAPP as a benchmark and template. This new version of the Policy has the added weight of being endorsed by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board and Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership. The CVAPP is split into two sections with the first providing a policy context for the procedures which follow in section two.

The revised CVAPP will be distributed to staff via the Net Consent tool which requires staff to open and read the document before logging on to their computer and for those not working on computers via paper and hard copy. The existing training for staff will be modified to take into account the revisions and a session for Councillors will be arranged.

The operational procedures related to this document are currently paper based while the new CRM system is implemented. The intention is to develop CRM processes which support the recording and monitoring of our Safeguarding cases and allow for better interrogation of historical cases. It is expected that this will be implemented in October 2013.

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

This policy has been revised in line with the Working Together to Safeguard Children inter-agency guide 2013. An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached at appendix 'B'. The Council undertakes a Section 11 Audit in relation to its safeguarding standards for children on an annual basis.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Between 1 Apr 2012 until 31 March 2013, 79 initial concerns have been reported and logged onto the Council's system. There has been an increase from the previous year's figure when we recorded 61 initial concerns.

In summary the reports are telling us that –

1. Teams reporting their initial concerns are – Housing Services (Estate Management, Housing Advice, Cleaning and Caretaking Services), CCTV, Street Wardens, Strategic Partnerships, Housing Benefits and Customer Services.
2. Those we have concerns for range from the unborn to 88 years old.
3. Reports have come in from a variety of sources, staff witnessing issues, neighbours reporting issues, staff hearing concerns when talking to customers over the phone.
4. There are significant implications for the Housing Service, with the exception of a few reports – most appear to relate to those in Council accommodation and some are in need of Council assistance in finding accommodation/housing advice.
5. Reports range from verbal abuse to serious sexual abuse and to financial abuse.
6. Some reports relate to multiple types of suspected abuse, with this there appears to be a link with substance abuse & sexual abuse.
7. There are several reports linked to alcohol related incidents.
8. It would also appear that most incidents take place at home or very near to the home of the person we have concerns for.
9. All incidents were reported to the Police, First Response, or another agency.

REPORT AUTHOR

Stephanie Ivey, Safeguarding Children & Families Officer, Communities, Planning & Partnerships 01827 709381

Stephanie-ivey@tamwoth.gov.uk

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013 Department for Education)

<http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/documents/Working%20TogetherFINAL.pdf>

Statutory Guidance Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFES-0036-2007>

Professor Eileen Munro's report, 'A child-centred system' May 2011

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/m/8875_dfe_munro_report_tagged.pdf

APPENDICES

Appendix 'A' – Tamworth Borough Council Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

Appendix 'B' – Equality Impact Assessment

This page is intentionally left blank