

CABINET

31st August 2011

Report of the Portfolio Holder Quality of Life

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to secure Members' approval to adopt the revised Children and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy (CVAPP), please see appendix 'A'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members:

- 1. Approve the draft Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy**
- 2. Endorse the implementation of the policy and promote attendance at the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection training associated with this policy**

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 2010. An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached at appendix 'B'.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tamworth Borough Council has both a legal and moral duty to protect vulnerable children and adults from harm. The Children's Acts 1989 and 2004 along with the associated statutory guidance set out our legal responsibilities for protecting children. As part of our ongoing commitment to these responsibilities the Council has revised

the current policy in line with the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children that was published in March 2010 following the publication of Lord Laming's report, *The protection of Children in England: A Progress Report*, March 2009.

We have a duty to recognise and report any issues that we detect via our contact with customers, visitors and from our partners that identify potential issues of safety, welfare or vulnerability of an individual. At Tamworth Borough Council we take that duty seriously and to support our policy and training, have launched an on-line reporting tool via our corporate CRM system.

Access to the CRM for all staff is via our intranet, and is proving to be used widely by various teams. It is also evident that other agencies are advising us of safeguarding issues and these are also being incorporated onto recording and reporting system.

Between 1 Apr 2010 until 31 March 2011, 61 initial concerns have been reported and logged onto the Councils CRM system

In summary the reports are telling us that –

1. Teams using the CRM to report their initial concerns are – Housing Services (Estate Management, Housing Advice, Cleaning and Caretaking Services, Income Management), CCTV, Street Wardens, Sports Development, Strategic Partnerships, Housing Benefits and Customer Services.
2. Geographically we have received reports that relate to the following areas - Town centre (shopping centre & homeless) (14) , Town Centre (residential) (2), Amington (2), Glascote (4), Fazeley (3), Bolehall (2) Leyfields (6), Belgrave (8), Kettlebrook (1), Wilnecote (1), Coton Green (2), Stonydelph (14), and (3) for Lichfield.
3. Those we have concerns for age between approximately 20 months old to 90 years old.
4. 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, we have received 3 reports from outside agencies (Hospital, the Police and a College).
5. 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.
6. Reports range from verbal abuse to serious sexual abuse to financial abuse.
7. Some reports relate to multiple types of suspected abuse, with this there appears to be a link with substance abuse & sexual abuse.
8. There are several reports linked to alcohol related incidents.
9. It would also appear that most incidents take place at home or very near to the home of the person we have concerns for.
10. We've had 2 reports of children being left in cars.
11. All incidents were reported to the Police, First Response, or another agency.

The revised Policy and Procedures have been endorsed by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board. The CVAPP is split into two sections with the first providing a policy context for the procedures which follow in section two.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010 DCSF)
Statutory Guidance Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
The Laming Report 2009, The Protection of Children in England

APPENDICES

Appendix 'A' – Tamworth Borough Council Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy
Appendix 'B' – Equality Impact Assessment