

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY
Date of Meeting: 22 November 2018

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE
Date of Meeting: 11 December 2018

REPORT TO: COUNCIL
Date of Meeting: 18 December 2018

Report of: Director – Communities, Health, Wellbeing, Sport & Leisure

Title: Safeguarding Policy

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To seek approval for the city council's revised safeguarding policy.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That Corporate Services Scrutiny supports the adoption of the revised safeguarding policy.

2.2 That Executive supports the adoption of the revised safeguarding policy.

2.3 That Council adopts the revised safeguarding policy.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The safeguarding policy has been updated to reflect changes in governance arrangements for safeguarding within the council.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources:

4.1 The report is an update on the policy. There are no specific resource implications other than training and awareness raising programmes to ensure all staff understand their responsibilities and what to do to manage enquiries and referrals.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

There are no additional financial implications contained in this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The Children Act 2004, specifically Section 11, places a duty on key people and public bodies, including district councils, to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

6.2 The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities and relevant partners (including district councils) to co-operate with each other when exercising any respective functions which are relevant to care and support. This co-operation can be at a strategic level or related to individual cases.

6.3 There are a number of other pieces of legislation that cover all aspects of safeguarding under which the council has specific duties and these are listed in the policy document.

7. Monitoring officer Comments

This report raises no issues from the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report Details:

8.1 The city council has had a safeguarding policy in place since 2006, which has been subject to review and minor amendments.

8.2 In 2016 a joint policy with each of the district councils across Devon was developed to provide a framework of understanding about what safeguarding is and how to respond across the county. This was based on the Exeter City Council policy.

8.3 In order to more easily reflect the city council's internal reporting structures and levels of accountability a single Exeter City Council policy is more appropriate as this better reflects how our organisation works. Section 6 of the policy sets out the governance framework and responsibilities of officers and members.

8.4 In addition two sections (7 and 8) have been added to clarify responsibilities around events and land hire and grant applications.

8.5 The policy is subject to ongoing annual review in order to respond to changes in legislation and best practice.

8.6 Members are asked to endorse this policy.

9 How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 In promoting safeguarding and protecting the wellbeing of children, young people and adults with care and support needs the safeguarding policy meets contributes directly to three strands of the Corporate Plan:

- Leading a well-run council
- Building great neighbourhoods
- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles

10 What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 The council safeguarding officers work closely with both Devon Safeguarding Adults Board, Devon Children and Families Partnership Quality Assurance Board, Safer Devon Partnership and other district councils. This ensures best practice and that the council is kept up to date with any issues.

10.2 Corporate Safeguarding risks are identified and monitored through the Corporate Risk Register.

11 What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, Economy safety and the environment?

11.1 The policy and associated work has a positive impact on equality and diversity, health and wellbeing and safeguarding. An equality impact assessment has been conducted which is appended to this report.

12 Are there any other options?

12.1 No.

Jo Yelland, Director – Communities, Health, Wellbeing, Sport & Leisure

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None

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