



REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	7 th June 2022
SUBJECT:	Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
PURPOSE:	To consider the updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing, Conservation & Heritage
REPORT OF:	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director – Wellbeing & Community Leadership
REPORT AUTHOR:	Emily Holmes, Communities Manager
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

Safeguarding is a statutory duty for the council. It encompasses a range of legal duties and responsibilities designed to protect people's health, wellbeing, and human rights, and support them in preventing problems from escalating and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect. This report provides an overview of the policy framework for the council to fulfil its statutory responsibilities and to demonstrate safeguarding competence and compliance.

SHDC's safeguarding policy framework was already aligned to agreed county multi-agency policy and practices. There are direct links and interdependencies with other Council policies including complaints, recruitment and selection and whistleblowing. Safeguarding compliance is audited and checked through a process of self-assessment and external audit by the respective safeguarding boards.

This report presents the updated safeguarding policy and procedures which have been amended as part of the full review which is required every three years. The key changes can be summarised in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures be approved; and
2. That the Deputy Chief Executive – Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Heritage, be delegated to approve any minor amendments to the Policy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that the Council continues to fulfil statutory responsibilities to safeguarding children and adults

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

That the Council has 8 separate policies and procedures for Safeguarding Children, Safeguarding Adults at Risk, Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Hate Crime & Mate Crime, Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking, County Lines & Cuckooing and Preventing Violent Extremism.

This option is not recommended as the overarching principles for each of these topic areas are the same and can be approached with a consistent framework.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Safeguarding covers a range of legal duties and responsibilities to protect people's health, wellbeing and human rights, to prevent problems from escalating and enabling households and individuals to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.
- 1.2 To safeguard residents, district councils work collaboratively with other statutory services including Lincolnshire Police, Adult Social Care and Children's Services. The way agencies work together is shaped through countywide strategic partnerships including Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership and Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership.
- 1.3 The Council has statutory duties to undertake in relation to safeguarding and to promote the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Safeguarding Policy and Procedures supports the Council to protect those who need safeguarding by providing a reference point and guidance for staff, elected members, volunteers and commissioned services acting on behalf of the Council. This document seeks to provide practical guidance to ensure the Council undertakes its duties and promotes the wellbeing of residents and communities.
- 2.2 Safeguarding responsibilities are broadly consistent across the different areas of protecting vulnerable people. This includes;

- Having effective policy and procedures in place with clear roles and responsibilities
- Recognising abuse or knowing how to recognise concerns
- Training and safely recruiting a capable workforce
- Reporting concerns to partner agencies
- Working closely with partners such as social care services, health agencies, Lincolnshire Police and other local authorities
- Responding to allegations
- Undertaking and participating in regular audit and scrutiny for continuous improvement

2.3 This report provides an updated version of existing policies and framework to fulfil statutory duties and demonstrate safeguarding competence and compliance following a full review.

2.4 The key policy changes in the document can be summarised;

- Roles, responsibilities and reporting arrangements updated
- Updated guidance on domestic abuse to reflect the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Updated to reflect multi-agency working practices
- Updated internal reporting and monitoring process
- Refreshed and updated web links
- Sectioned the policy for ease of navigation and to enable clear updates in the future

2.5 There are direct links and interdependencies with other policies including complaints, recruitment and selection and whistleblowing.

2.6 A programme of safeguarding training will continue to be offered to staff and elected members to raise awareness of the policy.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Safeguarding is a statutory duty for the Council. This report provides an overview of the policy framework to fulfil statutory responsibilities and demonstrate safeguarding competence and compliance.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 The policy upholds the Council's position in taking all aspects of safeguarding seriously and provides a clear, consistent framework to do so.

4.2 The policy enables us to demonstrate compliance with safeguarding duties and the commitment to protecting and supporting vulnerable people.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

5.1.1 District councils safeguarding policies are broadly consistent across the county given the nature of the multi-agency working in this area. There are no direct implications of this report on the South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.2.1 This policy supports Corporate Priority 'Our Council' and the critical activity 'Ensure national policies relating to modern slavery and safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults are embedded effectively throughout all aspects of our services'

5.3 STAFFING

5.3.1 All staff will be briefed on this policy and attend appropriate mandatory training.

5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.4.1 The policy does not form part of the major policy framework and can be approved by Cabinet.

5.5 DATA PROTECTION

5.5.1 Confidentiality, data protection, consent and appropriate information sharing agreements are key elements within the policy.

5.6 FINANCIAL

5.6.1 No direct implications from this report. There is a financial contribution for staff time, contribution to partnerships and training in order to comply with the policy.

5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.7.1 The policy seeks to reduce the risk of harm to vulnerable residents by having appropriate information and procedures in place.

5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

5.8.1 This was presented to Policy Development Panel on 24th May 2022.

5.8.2 The change to the policy format to make sections clearer to access and update has been made in response to feedback.

5.9 REPUTATION

5.9.1 Failure to adopt and implement a robust safeguarding policy could lead to reputational risk in the event of a serious case review or audit.

5.10 CONTRACTS

5.10.1 This policy will be made available to all contractors.

5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER

5.11.1 The policy reflects the Council's approach to tackling criminal acts including domestic abuse, hate crime and human trafficking. Officers make appropriate referrals and work closely with other agencies, including Lincolnshire Police.

5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

5.12.1 This policy directly supports the Council's safeguarding responsibilities.

5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

5.13.1 Safeguarding responsibilities support the protection of people’s health, wellbeing and lives.

5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.14.1 None.

5.15 LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government’s ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.

6. ACRONYMS

6.1 None.

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
<i>APPENDIX A</i>	<i>Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2022</i>

<i>APPENDIX B</i>	<i>Part A: Safeguarding Children and Young People</i>
<i>APPENDIX C</i>	<i>Part B: Safeguarding Adults at Risk</i>
<i>APPENDIX D</i>	<i>Part C: Domestic Abuse</i>
<i>APPENDIX E</i>	<i>Part D: Stalking</i>
<i>APPENDIX F</i>	<i>Part E: Hate Crime and Mate Crime</i>
<i>APPENDIX G</i>	<i>Part F: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking</i>
<i>APPENDIX H</i>	<i>Part G: County Lines and Cuckooing</i>
<i>APPENDIX I</i>	<i>Part H: Preventing Violent Extremism</i>

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Policy Development Panel 24th May 2022

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Communities Manager Emily Holmes eholmes@sholland.gov.uk
Signed off by:	Assistant Director - Wellbeing and Community Leadership Emily Spicer emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk Deputy Chief Executive – Communities John Leach John.Leach@boston.gov.uk