

Report of the Assistant Director Adult Social Care

**Proposal to develop a City of York Council Corporate Safeguarding
Policy**

Summary

1. This report sets out the reasons why a corporate Safeguarding Policy is deemed necessary for the Council. The policy will set out a set of principles around safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from abuse and expectations on elected members, officers and individuals/companies carrying out contractual work on behalf of the Council.
2. The policy will also recommend what level of awareness and training should be expected of individuals carrying out any kind of role within or on behalf of the Council.
3. The policy is intended to give assurance to members of the public, service users, elected members, employees and people working on behalf of the Council that there are clear arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children and adults.

Background

4. The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is not only a statutory requirement on the local authority, it is also important for the Council to declare its position on not tolerating /addressing abuse when it occurs, or appears to be occurring.
5. It is proposed that there is a duty on the Council to ensure that a culture of zero tolerance towards abuse exists and is understood by all, as well as an appropriate level of awareness of the signs of potential abuse, which means that all staff recognise the signs and know what action to

take should they come across a situation in which they believe an individual(s) may be being abused.

6. It is proposed that a corporate safeguarding policy is developed (a draft is already in progress), which sets out clear expectations that safeguarding is everybody's business, and explains how the Council; its members, officers and contractors will work to ensure that all York residents are protected from abuse and will receive appropriate guidance and training to understand their individual responsibilities.

Policy Objectives (draft)

7. The **objectives** of this document are as follows;
 - To highlight how City of York Council undertakes its legal commitments in the field of safeguarding children and adults;
 - To give assurance to members of the public, service users, elected members, employees and people working on behalf of the Council that there are clear arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children and adults;
 - To highlight that all providers contracted with or commissioned by the council have a responsibility to adhere to the procedures and guidance set out in this policy.
 - To ensure that Council staff and elected members have clear guidelines for when a child or adult may be at risk of harm.

To adopt and implement the Intercollegiate Adult Safeguarding Standards^[1] in order that everyone understands their role and responsibilities in terms of acting on suspected abuse.

Policy Principles (draft)

8. Every child and adult (whatever their background, culture, age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religious belief) has a right to participate in a safe society without any violence, fear, abuse, bullying or discrimination; Every child and adult has the right to be protected from harm, exploitation and abuse. Therefore we as a Council will:

^[1] Intercollegiate Adult Safeguarding Standards document (Royal College of Nursing 2018).

promote the freedom and dignity of the person who has experienced or is experiencing abuse

promote the rights of all people to live free from abuse, neglect and coercion

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of people who do not have the capacity to decide how they want to respond to abuse that they are experiencing
- manage services in a way which promotes safety and prevents abuse
- provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training, ensuring that all staff at all levels have the required competencies in safeguarding and monitoring this on a regular basis
- put the welfare of children and adults at risk of abuse centrally in our policies and procedures
- work closely in partnership with children, their parents, carers and adults and other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults;
- Respect the rights, wishes, feelings and privacy of children and adults by listening to them and minimising any risks that may affect them;
- Invest in preventative work and early intervention and try to avoid situations where abuse or allegations of abuse or harm may occur.

Consultation

9. No consultation has taken place.

Analysis

10. It is submitted that the need for this policy is entirely compatible with the objectives of the Council to uphold the human rights of residents of York

to live free from abuse. It will clarify what expectations are in place for all employees, contractors or elected members in terms of reporting suspected abuse.

Council Plan

11. The development and implementation of this policy will contribute to at least 2 of the Council's core outcomes; Safe Communities and culture and Good Health and Wellbeing.

Implications

Financial

12. There are no financial implications in terms of this policy.

Human Resources (HR)

13. This policy will complement existing Human Resources policies and procedures, e.g. around safe recruitment, dignity at work etc.

Equalities

14. This policy will strengthen equalities initiatives and objectives. It will apply to everyone's right to live free from abuse.

Legal

15. There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder

16. The policy may contribute positively to the identification of crime and disorder.

Information Technology (IT)

17. There are no implications in respect of IT.

Property

18. There are no implications in respect of property.

Other

19. Not applicable.

Risk Management

20. There are no known risks associated with the development of this policy. On the contrary, it should provide assurance to York residents that the Council takes its safeguarding responsibilities seriously and has the required policies and guidance in place to protect vulnerable people from abuse.

Recommendations

21. Members are asked to give their views on the proposed objectives and principles and support this proposed policy.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 31/10/2019

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes

All annexes to the report must be listed here.

None.

Abbreviations

*All abbreviations used throughout the report should be listed here in full e.g.
CSMC = Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee.*