



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	26 NOVEMBER 2015
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF PLANNING AND HOUSING GARY HOUSDEN
TITLE OF REPORT:	SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK POLICY AND PROCEDURES
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend for approval the revised Council policy and procedures for safeguarding children and adults at risk.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council is recommended to approve the adoption of the Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy and Procedures.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council has a legal obligation to ensure that its functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. These duties and obligations are contained in various separate pieces of legislation and guidance and the policy has been developed in accordance with these, including the following:

- (i) Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2006 and 2010.
- (ii) Ryedale District Council is a statutory partner of the North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the policy has been developed in line with the agreed multi-agency procedures.
- (iv) Safeguarding Adults Multi-agency Policy and Procedures for West and North Yorkshire.

This policy sets out guidance for staff and Elected Members about these duties and procedures for their implementation.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 Failure to put in place appropriate arrangements for safeguarding children, young people and adults would be a breach of the statutory requirements of the Children's Act 2004 and would potentially put vulnerable children and adults at risk.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The policy has regard to national policy guidelines and recommendations of good practice. The policy will assist the Council in meeting its statutory requirements under the Children's Act 2004.

REPORT

6.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 6.1 The new Safeguarding Policy and Procedures is attached as Annex One. The policy sets out the requirements of District Council's in meeting its statutory safeguarding responsibilities and provides guidance for staff and elected members about their duties and procedures for implementation.

- 6.2 The existing Safeguarding Policy and Procedures has been reviewed and updated and this revised document reflects the latest guidance and good practice.

- 6.3 The Policy sets out the duties and requirements of the Council in respect of safeguarding. It identifies the key indicators of abuse and sets out clearly what staff and elected members should do in the event they suspect abuse may be occurring or the welfare of a child is at risk.

- 6.4 The Policy also deals with safeguarding of adults at risk and again sets out clearly action to be taken by staff if they have concerns about a vulnerable adult.

- 6.5 The Policy has been updated to provide information and guidance in relation to sexual exploitation and trafficking and to reflect the Council's responsibilities in relation to "Prevent" which is one of the strands of the government's Counter Terrorism Strategy.

- 6.6 The Policy has also been amended in line with the changes that came in 2015 with the Care Act.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Council participates in partnership arrangements in relation to children and young people and adults at risk.

- 7.2 This policy reflects procedures and referral processes that have been agreed with partners, specifically North Yorkshire County Council. The Policy takes account of relevant legislation, guidance and good practice.

- 7.3 The policy and procedures have been developed in consultation with the sub-regional lead officers group and the Ryedale Safeguarding Panel which includes elected members.

8.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 8.1 The Council has a legal duty to have in place policies and procedures that ensure that its functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk.
- 8.2 The Council has had in place a Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy since 2007. In 2010, following the publication of additional statutory guidance in relation to inter-agency working, officers reviewed the policy and procedures and in addition incorporated a policy and procedure for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. A further review has now taken place to reflect further changes to legislation.
- 8.3 The policy is combined for both Children and Adults, however there are separate reporting procedures. Although very similar, the procedures have been kept separate in order to comply with the separate county wide multi-agency procedures.
- 8.4 The policy is supported by a range of Appendices including code of Conduct, referral forms and definitions.
- 8.5 The revised policy proposes that the Named Senior Officer for Safeguarding is amended to the Corporate Director. The Designated Safeguarding Officer remains the Council's Housing Services Manager.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
There are no direct financial issues arising from consideration of this report. Individual actions, for example costs associated with undertaking Data Barring Checks do have financial implications for the District Council, however, it is anticipated that these can be accommodated within existing budget provision.
 - b) Legal
The Policy takes account of the legal duties placed on District Council's as set out in the Children's Act 2004.
 - c) Equalities
The Policy is in place to protect vulnerable children and adults. The Policy recognises that children and adults who are perceived as "different" for example due to disability, ethnic background or sexual orientation can be more vulnerable to abuse.
 - d) Staffing
This Policy has been prepared in partnership with Scarborough Borough Council, who have also provided training, advice and assistance in relation to safeguarding issues for council staff and elected members. However, it is essential that staff and elected members across the organisation are aware of their responsibilities and action to take if they have a concern. Service Unit Managers have a key role to play in ensuring staff are aware of the Policy, identifying any additional training that may be required and in supporting staff who identify safeguarding concerns.

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Background Papers: Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk, Policy and Procedures