



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	10 FEBRUARY 2011
REPORT OF THE:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR MARIE-ANN JACKSON
TITLE OF REPORT:	SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS 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 new Council policy for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

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

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.
- (iii) The guidelines on adult safeguarding produced by the Department of Health 'No Secrets' 2000.
- (iv) North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Multi-agency Policy and Procedures.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are no significant risks in adopting the policy. The Council would be exposed to risk if it did not have up to date, compliant safeguarding policies and procedures.

REPORT

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The Council adopted a Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy in 2007. Since that time further statutory guidance has been published¹ which has prompted the need to revise the Council's existing policy and related procedures. The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board has also produced multi-agency procedures for all partner agencies and therefore the proposed new policy has been produced to encompass adult safeguarding. There remain separate reporting procedures for children and adults to reflect the differing requirements.

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1 This policy is in accordance with the Council's policy framework.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The policy and procedures have been developed in consultation with North Yorkshire County Council, the sub-regional lead officers group, Unison and the Ryedale Safeguarding Panel which includes the Member Champions for Adults and Children.

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 there is an expectation and guidance in regard to the same obligations for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. It is anticipated that this will become a duty in due course.
- 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 have reviewed the policy and procedures and in addition have prepared a policy and procedure for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in anticipation of a new duty and in line with agreed North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults multi-agency procedures.
- 8.3 The new policy and procedures are attached at Annex A. 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 and procedures include the following sections:
- Understanding Abuse
 - Safeguarding Policy - including roles and responsibilities
 - Procedure for Vulnerable Adults

¹ Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – DCSF - March 2010

- Procedure for Children
- Procedure for Managing Allegations against Staff

8.5 The policy and procedures are supported by a range of Appendices including Codes of Conduct, referral forms and definitions.

8.6 The code of conduct has been amended to include references to the use of social media such as Facebook, SMS (texting) and MySpace.

8.7 The revised policy proposes that the Named Senior Officer for Safeguarding is amended from the Corporate Director to the Head of Organisational Development. The Designated Safeguarding Officer is the Housing Services Manager.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
None identified.
- b) Legal
The policy and procedure is compliant with current legislation.
- c) Other
There are no significant other implications arising from this report.

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Background Papers:
Ryedale Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policies (2007)

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
Ryedale Intranet