



**Corporate Policy &
Resources**

Thursday, 9 February 2023

Subject: Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2023-2024

Report by:

Assistant Director Homes and Communities

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To approve the updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. Committee approve the updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
2. Committee delegate to the Director Planning, Regeneration and Communities to make minor amendments to the policy in consultation with the Chair of the committee.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

By maintaining appropriate Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, the council ensures that any legal requirements and duties are being met including:

- Care Act 2014
- Children Act 2004
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/143/23/SL

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

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

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

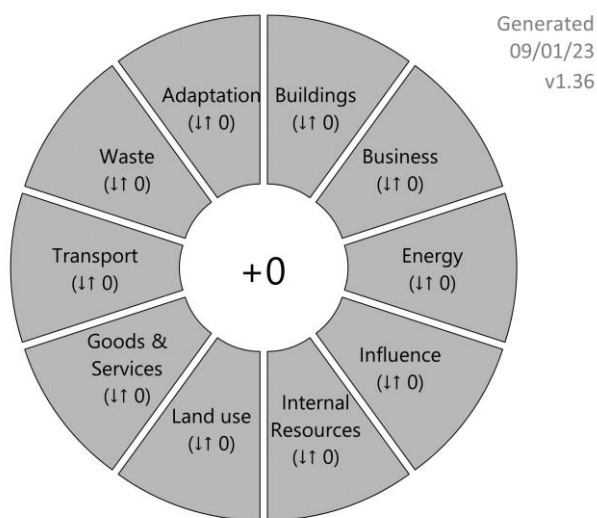
This policy directly supports the Council's safeguarding responsibilities.

Data Protection Implications :

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

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

There are no specific climate related risks or opportunities in relation to this report.



West Lindsey District Council will be net zero by 2050 (26 years and 11 months away).

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

This policy ensures the Council has appropriate procedures on safeguarding to support incidents, reports and situations that have an element of criminality. This directly supports the Council’s ability to have due regard to preventing crime.

Health Implications:

Safeguarding responsibilities support the protection of people’s health, wellbeing and lives. This policy and procedures ensures the Council takes appropriate actions in relation to safeguarding that will have a direct impact on keeping people safe and promoting their own health and wellbeing.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

Risk Assessment :

None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Key Policy Changes

1.1 Key policy changes in this updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures can be summarised as:

- 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 Introduction

2.1 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.

2.2 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 (LSCP)
- Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)
- Safer Lincolnshire Partnership
- Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership
- Lincolnshire Prevent Steering Group

2.3 The Council has statutory duties to undertake in relation to safeguarding and to promote the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

3 Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

3.1 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.

3.2 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
- 3.3 This report provides an updated version of existing policies and procedures to fulfil statutory duties and demonstrate safeguarding competence and compliance following a full review.
- 3.4 Officers have worked with colleagues from all other Lincolnshire District Councils with an agreement to maintain a unified approach to the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- 3.5 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
- 3.6 There are direct links and interdependencies with other policies including complaints, recruitment and selection and whistleblowing.
- 3.7 A programme of safeguarding training will continue to be offered to staff and elected members to raise awareness of the policy.
- 3.8 The updated policy is included with this report as an appendix. Please see **Section 4** below for a full list of appendix documents.

4 Benefits and Corporate Plan

- 4.1 Safeguarding is a statutory duty for the Council. The adoption of the revised policy and procedures ensures the Council fulfils statutory responsibilities and demonstrates safeguarding competence and compliance.
- 4.2 The policy upholds the Council's position in taking all aspects of safeguarding seriously and provides a clear, consistent framework to do so.

- 4.3 The policy enables us to demonstrate compliance with safeguarding duties and the commitment to protecting and supporting vulnerable people.
- 4.4 The policy and procedures will directly impact on our ability to achieve strategic aims within the Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2023. In particular these include:

Focus	Strategic Aim
Health & Wellbeing	To reduce health inequalities and promote wellbeing across the district through the promotion of healthy lifestyles
Vulnerable Groups & Communities	To create strong and self-reliant communities and promote positive life choices for disadvantaged residents
Public Safety & Environment	To create a safer, cleaner district in which to live, work and socialise
Customer	To put the customer at the centre of everything we do
Staff & Members	To maintain our position as a well-managed and well-governed Council

5 Appendices to this report

- 5.1 The updated version of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures is included in this report as an appendix. The policy itself has appendices which are included as appendix documents to this report.

Appendix Number	Title
APPENDIX 1	Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2023-2024
APPENDIX 2	Part A: Safeguarding Children and Young People
APPENDIX 3	Part B: Safeguarding Adults at Risk
APPENDIX 4	Part C: Domestic Abuse
APPENDIX 5	Part D: Stalking
APPENDIX 6	Part E: Hate Crime and Mate Crime
APPENDIX 7	Part F: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
APPENDIX 8	Part G: County Lines and Cuckooing
APPENDIX 9	Part H: Preventing Violent Extremism

6 Policy Review

- 6.1 A full review of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures shall be conducted every 3 years. A full review shall be completed sooner if significant changes to the policy are required.
- 6.2 An annual review of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures shall be conducted by officers to ensure content and legislation accuracy.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Committee approve the updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- 7.2 Committee delegate to the Director Planning, Regeneration and Communities to make minor amendments to the policy in conjunction with the Chair of the committee.