

SCRUTINY STUDY OF THE COUNCIL'S POLICIES FOR SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

To - Scrutiny Management Team

Date of meeting – 20th October, 2015

Notes of - Strategic Director

BRIEFING NOTE

Safeguarding Children

The Family Support and Safeguarding of Children Policy was first produced and approved in 2010, and was updated in 2011, 2013 and was taken to Management Team in November 2014. It was refreshed and approved by Full Council in July this year.

The Policy still recognises the broad scale of support which families may require on the Continuum of Need, and has been refreshed to include:

- A joint policy and approach to safeguarding between Pendle Council, Liberata and Pendle Leisure Trust;
- Explicit reference to Child Sexual Exploitation as part of 'understanding abuse' on p.5;
- Additions to the Code of Conduct for staff, volunteers and councillors on p.11, to include reference to Pendle Leisure Trust's previous policy;
- Updated web links to our policies and other websites/guidance;
- Changes in staffing – regarding the Designated Safeguarding Children Officer role and addition of a Pendle Leisure Trust Lead;
- Common Assessment Framework CAF pathway (appendix 1) – updated in light of changes at LCC and removal of Help Direct role;
- Examples of situations (appendix 2) – updated to remove references to vulnerable adults and to include examples relevant to Pendle Leisure Trust services;
- Reporting domestic abuse (appendix 4) – updated by the PDVI Manager;
- A 'benchmark' of good practice with other District Councils.

Awareness raising / Training

It was agreed, due to these changes, and to ensure appropriate staff are trained, (or have refresher training if previously completed), that a corporate training programme for Family Support and Safeguarding is introduced. This would be recognised in the PMR process, and include:

Safeguarding Level 1 – for *all* members of staff

The safeguarding presentation (including definitions, policy, procedure and the CAF and Safeguarding Children processes) is a short presentation, delivered by Sarah to all staff who have not completed Level 2 (see below). The majority of staff have now received this presentation, and outstanding teams have been booked in.

There is also the E-learning module via the Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust website: <http://cypvle.lancsngfl.ac.uk/> which all staff attending Level 2 have had to complete.

Safeguarding Level 2 – for front-facing staff with contact with children/young people and/or parents/carers

This is also available via e-learning, however an external trainer, Judith Gluyas (a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) trainer) has delivered this in three face-to-face sessions in September 2015.

The Lancashire CAF and Continuum of Need (CON) – for front-facing staff with contact with children/young people and/or parents/carers.

The e-learning module via the Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust website: <http://cypvle.lancsngfl.ac.uk/> has been completed by those staff attending Level 2.

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) training – for those members of staff identified in the 'contacts and communications' section of the policy (p.15):

- Senior Manager with responsibility for safeguarding (Philip Mousdale)
- Designated Safeguarding Children Officer (Sarah Astin)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Children Officer (Wayne Forrest)
- Liberata / Human Resources and Staff Issues Lead (Lesley Ritchie)
- Pendle Leisure Trust Lead (Vanessa Kelly)

This is being delivered by The Athena Programme, along with Safeguarding Officers in other districts – Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Fylde and Wyre – to achieve economies of scale. It is taking place on 14th October at the ACE Centre.

Elected Members

An awareness -raising session for Elected Members took place prior to Full Council on 16th July 2015, with 35 Councillors in attendance.

Safeguarding Adults

Pendle's initial Safeguarding Policy was for both adults and children. However, it was advised in a LSCB audit that the two should be kept separate.

A new Vulnerable Adults policy is due to go to Management Team on 3rd November. This is being developed with LCC Safeguarding leads and other district councils (as was the case with the

safeguarding children policy). It will follow the Lancashire format, which was recently developed, taking into account the legislative requirements of the Care Act 2014.

To keep safeguarding (children and adults) high on the agenda for both staff and Elected Members, regular reminders and updates are planned going forward.

Report Author: Sarah Astin

Tel: (01282) 661782

Email: sarah.astin@pendle.gov.uk

Date: 12th October, 2015

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Family Support and Safeguarding Children Policy