

REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the current position with regards to the Council's role in family support and safeguarding children and adults.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To note the content of this report and raise any issues for consideration
- (2) To agree the revised 'Family Support and Safeguarding Children Policy' and 'Promoting Welfare and Safeguarding Adults Policy'

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that Pendle Council is meeting its statutory duty in the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014.

ISSUE

Background

1. This update follows the last report on 8 December 2020, and includes:
 - Pendle Council Safeguarding Policies
 - Staff & Member Safeguarding Training plan
 - Training for Taxi Drivers
 - Safeguarding cases
 - Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership and Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Section 11 / Care Act Compliance Action Plan

Pendle Council Safeguarding Policies

2. We have refreshed and revised our two Safeguarding policies, 'Family Support & Safeguarding Children' and Promoting Welfare & Safeguarding Adults' to align them with the new Lancashire safeguarding governance arrangements and national and Lancashire directives. For example, the policies now refer to the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) and Trauma Informed practices.
3. As with the previous Safeguarding policies, it's proposed that the revised policies will be shared and endorsed by Pendle Leisure Trust.
4. Implementation will be delivered through the staff and Elected Member Safeguarding refresher training programme (outlined below), to commence later this year.

Staff & Member Safeguarding Training plan

Training for all staff and Elected Members

5. An awareness session for new Members, which includes Safeguarding and Health and Wellbeing in their broadest sense, is planned for 11 July.
6. With the corporate commitment to refresh the safeguarding training every three years, this is now due for renewal for all Elected Members, PBC and Liberata staff. It is proposed that all Elected Members and staff receive refresher Safeguarding Awareness training to support policy implementation over 2022.
7. In 2018, Safeguarding training was rolled out face to face through Extended Management Team who then cascaded this to staff via a PowerPoint presentation. We were able to monitor uptake via a quiz and had over 95% compliance.
8. Options for the staff and Member refresh training is currently being considered, including utilising the platforms used for other corporate training. The aim is to produce a training module of approximately 20-30 mins that fulfils the CSAP and district workforce requirements and that enables us to monitor uptake across all Service Areas and Elected Members.

Training for front line staff

9. A more in-depth refresh is now required for front-facing staff with contact with children/young people and/or parents/carers and adults.
10. It is proposed that this training is delivered as a face to face session. The training would be bespoke to our needs, combine both Adults and Children Safeguarding and facilitated by a specialist trainer with any costs met the corporate training budget).
11. Training options for Designated Safeguarding Officers will also be explored, in tandem with other local authorities.

Training for Taxi Drivers

12. All Safeguarding training for taxi drivers is now delivered on-line. New license holders are required to undergo training as a condition of obtaining their license. Refresher sessions are being completed for those who undertook the training back in 2019, and this is taking place via the CSAP e-module 'Sexual Abuse and an Introduction to Child Sexual Exploitation'. Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation training is now embedded in Pendle's revised Taxi Licensing Policy.

13. Since the last Safeguarding update report, 30 new drivers have undertaken the training and 64 existing drivers have undertaken the refresher training. The majority of Pendle's taxi drivers (275) will undertake their refresher training in December 2022. To monitor compliance, Taxi drivers are required to send PBC their completion certificate.

Safeguarding Cases

14. We have a standardised form to log all safeguarding concerns that are reported by PBC staff and Members to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO). The majority are welfare concerns demonstrating that many of the issues that Pendle Council staff come across relate to early help, rather than safeguarding as such. It also demonstrates effectiveness of the Safeguarding training and an understanding of the processes and procedures.
15. Since the last update report in December 2020, PBC staff have raised 5 welfare or safeguarding concerns to the DSO. This is half those received in 2020 at the height of the Covid-19 restrictions. Three of these cases were deemed safeguarding issues and referred to LCC for further action.

Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership and Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board Section 11 / Care Act Compliance Action Plan

16. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The application of this duty will vary according to the nature of each agency and its functions.
17. The Audit Tool is circulated annually to partners so that the Safeguarding Boards can assess compliance with the duty. It is used across pan-Lancashire, including Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. Pendle Council has submitted an annual return on this audit tool since it was introduced in 2012.
18. The Section 11 / Care Act Compliance Tool was not applied in 2020 and 2021 partly due to the demise of the LSCB and transition to Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP). The CSAP has now recommenced the process and we completed and submitted our on-line Section 11 audit in April (Appendix 3).
19. We will now develop and complete an action plan to monitor areas for improvement.

Next Steps

The updated Family Support and Safeguarding Children Policy and the Promoting Welfare and Safeguarding Adults Policy will be communicated to all staff and Elected Members so they are aware of the changes.

The existing Safeguarding Children and Young People and Safeguarding Adults procedure / poster will be updated and displayed in council buildings.

The refresher training for all staff and Elected Members will be rolled out in 2022 as outlined above. Similar to 2019, this will be coordinated by Learning and Organisational Development Officer with support from the Localities & Policy Team.

An action plan in response to our Section 11 Return will be developed and completed.

An update report to be considered by Policy & Resources Committee in December 2022.

To continue the joint work with PLT, other districts and the CSAP.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: This update relates to both the existing Family Support and Safeguarding Children Policy and Promoting Welfare and Safeguarding Adults Policy.

Financial: None arising directly from the report.

Legal: Pendle Council has a statutory duty to safeguard children (Children Act 2004) and adults (Care Act 2014).

Risk Management: The risks of not having a process to deal with and communicate safeguarding issues, are high for the children and adults concerned, as well as for Pendle Council's reputation.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Climate Change: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: Safeguarding links directly to the work of the Community Safety Partnership in protecting our communities.

Equality and Diversity: Safeguarding could be a particular issue in more deprived Pendle wards where other geographical inequalities exist.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Family Support & Safeguarding Children Policy
Appendix 2- Promoting Welfare & Safeguarding Adults Policy
Appendix 3- Section 11 Pendle Return

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

CSAP e-module 'Sexual Abuse and an Introduction to Child Sexual Exploitation'

[Course centre - Blackburn with Darwen Learning \(melearning.university\)](#)