

REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO:	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
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SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the revised Safeguarding policy for children, young people and vulnerable adults, along with the associated implementation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To agree the revised Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults
- (2) To agree the policy implementation process to strengthen existing Safeguarding arrangements.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To ensure that Pendle Borough Council meets its statutory duty in the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014.

ISSUE

Pendle Council Safeguarding Policies

1. We have recently reviewed and refreshed our Safeguarding policy and procedures, in line with the 3-year policy review cycle.
2. The revised policy consolidates the two previous policies ('Family Support & Safeguarding Children' and Promoting Welfare & Safeguarding Adults'), merging them into one to better align them with the Lancashire safeguarding governance arrangements and national and Lancashire directives. It also includes Domestic Abuse and Prevent, recognising that radicalisation is a safeguarding issue.

3. Implementation will be delivered through the staff and Elected Member Safeguarding refresher training programme (outlined below), to commence in September 2025.
4. A proposed improvement to the existing process is the introduction of an online recording form for all Safeguarding related concerns. This will capture all concerns, including the low-level welfare cases. All staff who raise a Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse, Prevent or low-level concern will be required to complete this form so we are able to log all cases, and the actions taken. An online form makes the process more efficient and user friendly, enabling Pendle Borough Council to capture all cases centrally.

Staff & Member Safeguarding Training plan

Training for all staff and Elected Members

5. With the corporate commitment to refresh the safeguarding staff training every three years, this is now due for renewal.
6. In 2022, 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 a high compliance rate. We intend to adopt a similar approach in 2025, with the process commencing with EMT in September.
7. We undertake annual awareness training for all Members. The 2025 session, which includes Prevent, will be held in September.
8. Going forwards, we will supplement the mandatory awareness training with learning opportunities and communications, utilising the platforms available such as the Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership's MeLearning and bespoke animations.

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 so they are familiar with the revised Safeguarding reporting and recording process.
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 costs met by the corporate learning and development budget.
11. Both the awareness training and front-line staff training will address early help too, reinforcing the role of officers in identifying and recording low-level needs; equipping them with the knowledge to have conversations at the time, enabling them to signpost/ refer individuals/families in need to organisations who can support them.

Training for Taxi Drivers

12. All Safeguarding training for taxi drivers is now delivered online. 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 2022, 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 policy update in 2022, 413 new drivers have undertaken the training and c484 existing drivers have undertaken the refresher training. The majority of

Pendle's taxi drivers (275) undertook their refresher training in December 2022. To monitor compliance, Taxi drivers are required to send PBC their completion certificate.

Next Steps

14. The updated Safeguarding Policy will be communicated to all staff and Elected Members so they are aware of the changes.
15. The existing Safeguarding procedure poster will be updated and displayed in council buildings.
16. An online Safeguarding Incidents Recording Form will replace the existing recording system, details of which will be shared through the staff awareness session.
17. The refresher training for all staff and Elected Members will be rolled out from September 2025 as outlined above.
18. Annual Safeguarding updates to be considered by the Executive.
19. Joint work with PLT, other districts and the Lancashire Safeguarding Partnerships will continue.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: This Policy will ensure adherence and compliance to our legal safeguarding responsibilities

Financial: None arising from this report

Legal: Pendle Borough 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 Borough Council's reputation

Health and Safety: None arising from this report

Sustainability: None arising from this 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- Pendle Borough Council Safeguarding Policy
Appendix 2- Safeguarding and Prevent reporting process
Appendix 3- Domestic Abuse reporting process

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS