

NON EXEMPT

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date: 11th September 2017

Safeguarding Policy for Havant Borough Council

Head of Housing and Community Engagement

FOR DECISION

Portfolio Holder Cllr L. Turner

Key Decision: Yes

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 That the Cabinet adopts new policy in relation to Safeguarding as set out in Appendix (A).
- 1.2 This report sets out the revised Safeguarding Policy for Havant Borough Council (HBC) and explains how the Council proposes to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults and protect them from harm.
- 1.3 This Policy also includes consultation with Scrutiny Board who identified a need to include Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery and the Prevent Agenda. This has been done and reference to these can be found on pages 15-17 of appendix A.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet adopts new policy in relation to Safeguarding as set out in Appendix "A"
- 2.2 That Safeguarding training be mandatory for Councillors

3.0 Subject of Report

- 3.1 Safeguarding is defined by the Care Quality Commission as:

Protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. It's fundamental to high-quality health and social care.

- 3.2 The purpose of the Council's safeguarding policy is to ensure that HBC makes a clear statement about what the organisation, along with our partners, will do to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe.

NON EXEMPT

3.3 The Safeguarding Policy aims to ensure that a consistent approach to safeguarding exists across all Council services. It outlines key roles and responsibilities of individual officers to embed Safeguarding policy, practices and procedures into the Council's everyday business.

3.4 As a responsible and accountable employer, HBC's Safeguarding policy also seeks to protect individual employees and the wider Council from misunderstandings, false or malicious allegations against officers.

3.5 In order to ensure that officers of the Council feel confident and able to raise any safeguarding concern they may come across in the course of their duties, the policy will be accompanied by a specific training programme for Havant staff and councillors.

3.6 Training will be available to all staff, at all levels of the organisation. The following table details the levels of safeguarding training available. A rolling programme is scheduled in for the next few months so that all staff training requirements can be accommodated.

Work or Service area	Type of training available	Delivery Method
For all staff, whether new or existing	<i>Basic awareness</i> -Refresher of awareness training	On-line, short e-learning course
Front Line /Customer-facing staff for those dealing with members of the public (whether contact is in person <u>or</u> via the telephone)	<i>Front line interaction/Contact</i> -Led training, opportunities for interaction, recognising abuse and how to respond to concerns identified	Led course, 3 hours, safeguarding in-house trainer, Nominated by Line Manager or HOS
For those who may work with children, young people or vulnerable families and may need a little more information regarding what to do if they suspect abuse and who to contact	<i>Intermediate level</i> -Led course, in-house Or access to the training schedule of the Local Safeguarding Children Board/ Adult Safeguarding Board	Various course available, Line Managers or HOS to identify specific staff who may have a need for more in depth training which can be booked on a needs basis.

4.0 Implications

Resources

4.1 The implementation of the policy and the delivery of the training programme can be managed within existing resources. Employees will also be made aware of where further support can be given, should they have a safeguarding concern.

Legal

4.2 Under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004, Havant Borough Council must make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are discharged having

NON EXEMPT

regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Failure to disclose or support a potential safeguarding concern could implicate the Council in terms of a Section 11 Audit, or in more serious cases, a Serious Case Review. As such is it recognised that failure to comply with these and related legal obligations would mean that the Council is in breach of statutory duty and could bring the Council and its services into disrepute. The legal implications are otherwise considered within the body of the report.

Strategy

- 4.3 The Council is committed to delivering safer communities and protecting the welfare of our more vulnerable residents. Naturally this should be a key theme running through all the Councils activities, whether they be our services, operated by working in partnership, or commissioned and contracted services operated by a third party on behalf of the Council.

Risks

- 4.4 The formation of this policy, its publication, associated procedures and training all seek to reduce and mitigate any risks arising from a safeguarding incident. Ensuring that policy and training are regularly refreshed further reduce risk and continue to raise awareness on how issues can be addressed.

For the Community

- 4.5 Havant Borough has some strong and active communities and it is recognised that any community activity greatly enriches the lives of local residents. It is therefore paramount that Havant Borough Council is recognised as a conscientious employer and a reliable provider of well organised, safe and supported community activities.

Appendices -

Appendix A – Havant Borough Council Safeguarding Policy (2017)

Agreed and signed off by:

Legal – Marie Rosenthal, 31st August 2017

Finance – Andy Radford, 31st August 2017

Head of Housing and Community Engagement: Tracey Wood, 29th August 2017

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Leah Turner - 29th August 2017

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