
NON-EXEMPT

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

7 April 2021

Revised Safeguarding Policy and New Modern Slavery Statement

FOR DECISION

Cabinet Lead: Communications and Communities, Cllr Alex Rennie

Head of Service: Head of Housing and Community Engagement, Tracey Wood

Key Decision: No

Report Number: HBC/031/2020

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This paper is submitted to Cabinet for a policy decision.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Cabinet is recommended to adopt the revised Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and new Modern Slavery Statement to ensure the council fulfils its statutory obligations under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1. Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 the council is required to update its Safeguarding Policy regularly (every 3 years). The current policy (Appendix A) has received minor updates annually to reflect changes in legislation and guidance locally and nationally but has not been fully updated since 2016. A revised policy (Appendix B) has been written to address this.
- 3.2. The Safeguarding Policy sets out how the council's functions, and any services contracted out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
- 3.3. The council does not have a Modern Slavery Statement at present, but is required to have one under Section 54, of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

- 3.4 The new Modern Slavery Statement (Appendix C) sets out the council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking within the organisation, its supply chains or in its linked business activities.
- 3.5 Modern slavery is one of the ten main types of abuse in adult safeguarding identified within the Care Act 2014. This type of abuse, therefore, comes under the umbrella of safeguarding and concerns must be raised in conjunction with the procedures set out in the Safeguarding Policy.
- 3.6 The Modern Slavery Statement has been written using guidelines set out by the Home Office and Local Government Association. Neighbouring district and borough councils shared their statement templates and good practice to inform the creation of the council's statement. The Head of Strategic Commissioning has been consulted regarding wording to ensure it reflects current council practice.

4. Additional Budgetary Implications

- 4.1 None

5. Background and relationship to Corporate Strategy and/or Business Plans

One of the five themes from the Havant Borough Council Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 includes: 'A safe environment, healthier and more active residents.' The national guidance which relates to safeguarding children (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) and adults at risk (The Care Act 2014) both highlight the need to protect against the risk of, or experience of abuse, ensure safety within care and promote health and wellbeing. The national guidance underpins the revised Safeguarding Policy.

- 5.1. Evidence contained within the Havant Borough Council Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 states that by 2025, there will be 141 elderly people for every 100 children in Havant. Older people may be at higher risk of some conditions that can lead to care and support needs developing according to the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board. This highlights the need for staff awareness of signs/ symptoms/ indicators of abuse, or neglect (including self-neglect) and how to report concerns in line with the Safeguarding Policy.

6. Options considered

- 6.1. It is recommended that the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Modern Slavery Statement are noted by Cabinet. They are statutory and underpin what is expected of the council, its staff and members in relation to safeguarding customers and preventing modern slavery in its supply chains.

- 6.2 If a revised policy and new statement are not agreed then the council will not be compliant with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, or Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

7 Resource Implications

- 7.1 **Financial Implications:** Both the policy and statement can be delivered using existing resources so do not require funding from a cost centre.

Section 151 Officer comments: None

Date: 12.01.21

- 7.2 **Human Resources Implications:** Resourcing of this work can be managed in-house by existing staff. All teams across the council that have contact with members of the public are required to read and understand the Safeguarding Policy. This is a mandatory target reflected in staff appraisals. There is a 6 monthly rolling programme of new starter training and 3 yearly refresher training that ensures staff and Councillors are kept up to date with safeguarding developments complimented by regular communications. The Modern Slavery Statement will apply to any teams that procure services. A briefing on this coupled with all staff communications will be delivered to raise awareness across the council. The Modern Slavery Statement should be published each financial year, so this along with the Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed and updated annually.
- 7.3 **Information Governance Implications:** Safeguarding concern forms require personal, identifiable information/data and/or personal sensitive or confidential information/data to be collected about an individual. This was a requirement prior to the policy review. The revised policy supports how this should be carried out to ensure compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

8 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Implementation and regular review of the Safeguarding Policy and Modern Slavery Statement enables the Council to demonstrate compliance with its obligations under the Children Act 2004, the Care Act 2014 and the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Monitoring Officer comments: None

Date: 11.01.21

9 Risks

- 9.1 If staff and members are not clear about their responsibility to share information with relevant protection authorities this could result in significant harm, or the death of a member of the public of whom we have been in contact with.

10 Consultation

- 10.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with the Cabinet Lead for Communications and Communities: Cllr Alex Rennie.
- 10.2 The Safeguarding Policy formalises arrangements in existence. Relevant teams have been consulted, so necessary procedures could be put in place to ensure the revised policy and any local and national guidance is reflected in practice.
- 10.3 Current procurement and contract arrangements have been reviewed and updated to ensure they reflect the contents of the Modern Slavery Statement.

11 Communication

- 11.1 Once agreed, the Safeguarding Policy and Modern Slavery Statement will be added to the council's intranet system. Staff and Councillors will be notified of the revised policy and new statement via internal communications. Both will be added to the council website to enable public viewing.

12 Appendices

Appendix A- Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy (2016)
Appendix B- Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy (2020)
Appendix C- Modern Slavery Statement (2021)

13 Background papers

- 13.1 None

Agreed and signed off by:

Cabinet Lead for Communications and Communities: Cllr Alex Rennie 12.02.21
Director: Simon Jenkins 16.01.21
Deputy Monitoring Officer: Mark Watkins 11.01.21
Section 151 Officer: Lydia Morrison 12.01.21

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