

# **WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE – 6 JANUARY 2015**

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## **Title:**

### **SAFEGUARDING POLICIES – ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

**[Portfolio Holders: Cllrs Carole King and Simon Thornton]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

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## **Summary and purpose:**

This report presents the need for updated policies on Safeguarding Adults and Children and recommends their adoption to the Council.

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## **How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

Safeguarding most closely meets four of the Council's Corporate Priorities: Affordable Housing; Leisure and Lives; Understanding our Residents' Needs; Value for Money. However, it should be noted that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, including Councillors, staff, contractors and volunteers and relates to all of the work Waverley carries out.

## **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications.

## **Legal Implications:**

Waverley has a responsibility to report safeguarding concerns to Surrey County Council, who, in turn, will respond appropriately based on these reports. Waverley's responsibilities are an intrinsic part of the safeguarding process, and should be carried out effectively and appropriately.

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## **Background**

1. Waverley's Safeguarding Policy was originally introduced in November 2012. Since this time, there have been a number of changes which need to be reflected in the Policy, including implementation of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), changes to Waverley's senior management team and changes to the reporting and referral process to Surrey County Council. In addition, it was also considered timely to increase awareness of Waverley's safeguarding responsibilities and to implement a comprehensive training programme for all staff.

## **Review Process**

2. The Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed by key members of Waverley, representatives from Surrey County Council and the Waverley Locality Team and representatives from supporting organisations.

3. Best practice knowledge acquired from other local authorities and external organisations such as the Social Care Institute for Excellence was also collected and incorporated into the updated policy.
4. The following list includes the main changes that are being proposed:
  - a) The document has been split into two separate policy documents, one for adults and one for children, in order to better highlight the differences in legislation and responsibilities.
  - b) Safeguarding roles and responsibilities of Waverley, Surrey County Council and other organisations have been more clearly defined
  - c) Improved information about government guidance and legislation has been included
  - d) New information about types of abuse and how to recognise them has been included
  - e) A clear set of procedures to follow in each policy have been included
5. Please see Annexes 1 and 2 for the new policy documents.

### **Conclusion**

6. The adoption of updated Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children policies will assist in a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities and the procedures that need to be followed when potential safeguarding issues are identified.

### **Comments from Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

7. Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the policies at its meeting on 25 November 2014 and was pleased to learn that a programme of training for all Council staff to raise awareness of safeguarding responsibilities had been completed recently, with more targeted training for certain staff as appropriate to their particular role. The Committee was concerned that training should be refreshed on a regular basis, and asked that this be confirmed as part of an annual report to the Committee on Safeguarding issues. The Committee felt that it would be helpful for Members to have a summary of the policies and information about who they should contact if they had safeguarding concerns about any residents or situations they encountered as part of their work in the community.
8. The Committee endorsed the adoption of the new Safeguarding Policies by the Executive.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive

1. agrees that the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee receives an annual monitoring report on Safeguarding issues at Waverley; and
  2. recommends to the Council that the Safeguarding Policies for Adults and Children be adopted.
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## Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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