



Report to: Personnel & General Purposes Sub-Committee, 27th February 2019

Report of: Head of People Services

Subject: ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the Council progress and current position with regard to our safeguarding responsibilities.

2. Background

2.1 Following the Children's Safeguarding Board section 11 audit of us and other partner organisations in Worcestershire we updated our safeguarding action plan. An additional action was to annually update the Personnel and General Purposes Sub Committee on our position on safeguarding. This paper serves to provide that update.

3. Information

3.1 The 2018 Section 11 audit evidenced that the Council has sound and robust arrangements for discharging its safeguarding responsibilities.

3.2 The Council has a clear Safeguarding Policy – **Appendix 1**, which along with its appendices explains our approach and what employees need to do if they have any concerns. The Policy will be updated shortly to include modern slavery as one of the types of harm affecting both children and adults.

3.3 The Council has an established group of safeguarding advisors who lead on safeguarding and refer on concerns to the appropriate body. The group has recently been enlarged to cover all of our main work locations. The safeguarding advisors meet quarterly to review our position and monitor the handling of recent cases. The Council's lead officer for safeguarding, currently the Director for Homes and Communities attends these meetings. The advisors group also manages the delivery of a safeguarding action plan designed to ensure that our approach to safeguarding is constantly updated and improved.

3.4 The Council arranges for all staff to receive safeguarding training either on-line or group sessions which has to be refreshed every two years. All staff who have not completed the training in the last 12 months are being required to retrain in the period from 17 December 2018 to 28 February 2019. Child sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Prevent modules have been added to the training. We will add a further module covering modern slavery later this year. With regard to member training, the on-line module is available to all members. Additionally a Safeguarding Update briefing will be offered to members in the spring with a particular focus on CSE, Prevent and Modern Slavery. A Safeguarding briefing will also be added to the new members induction programme.

- 3.5 In 2018 nine safeguarding referrals were made to Social Services by Worcester City Council Staff mostly concerning children and young people no particular trends or new areas of concern were identified.
- 3.6 The Council uses our Internal Audit Shared Service to carry out critical friend audits to give some assurance over our arrangements and suggest improvements. The last audit was carried out in 2017 and a second such audit is planned for 2019/20.

Ward(s): All
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Background Papers: None