



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

D191

Cabinet 21 November 2012

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Guidance – Joint 'West Suffolk' Policy (Nov12/05)

1. The Committee considered a report which described the implementation of a Joint Safeguarding Policy for West Suffolk. As the shared services programme with Forest Heath District Council progresses, and the joint staff structure is implemented, a joint Policy will be important to avoid any confusion on the process for referring concerns, along with contact details of where to go for advice and support.
2. The joint Policy enables Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury to fulfil their statutory obligations under the Children Act 2004 by establishing effective arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The new Head of Housing for West Suffolk will take on responsibility as 'designated officer', alongside two deputy officers, whose contact details will be added to the Policy, which will then be widely circulated. It is also important that future legislation changes are incorporated into the Policy, and it will therefore be reviewed on an annual basis.
3. Members considered the draft Policy in detail, and made three suggestions for amendments to the draft document which are set out in the recommendations below.
4. The draft Joint Policy and Guidance were also considered by Forest Heath District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 October 2012, at which the changes proposed by the Borough Council's Committee were agreed in the recommendation for approval, and no further amendments were proposed. The Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

That, the West Suffolk Joint Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Guidelines for Working with Children and Young People, as contained within the Appendix to Report D169, be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:

- (1) Page 6, Paragraph 5.3 – the sentence at the end '*If a Child or Young Person is at immediate risk of significant harm dial 999 as in any emergency*' be emboldened and moved so as to be the first paragraph of Section 5;

- (2) Page 6, Paragraph 6.1 – the last sentence be emboldened;
and
- (3) Page 11, Paragraph 4, sub paragraph (d) – the words
'child or' be inserted before the words *'Young Person'*.

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