

# Cabinet



Forest Heath  
District Council

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>West Suffolk Safeguarding Policy - Guidelines for Working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>CAB/FH/15/019</b>	
<b>Report to and dates:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	31 March 2015
	<b>Council</b>	15 April 2015
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<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To set out an updated and revised Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults to ensure compliance with the new duties placed upon the Council by the Care Act 2014.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that,</b>  <b>Subject to Full Council, the revised Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines for working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report CAB/FH/15/019, be adopted.</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>  <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b>do not</b> apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>The decision made as a result of this report will be published within <b>48 hours</b> and cannot be actioned until <b>seven working days</b> have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i>		
<b>Consultation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation has taken place internally along with consultation with both the Suffolk Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Boards.</li> </ul>	

<b>Alternative option(s):</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None – failure to update and revise the existing policy would result in the councils being none compliant with the changes in legislation.</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications:</b>			
Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council currently pay a subscription of £5,000 per annum to the Suffolk Children’s Safeguarding Board and currently £1,000 to the Adult Safeguarding Board, both of which are met from within existing budgets.</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires that the existing Children’s and Young Persons Safeguarding Policy be revoked.</li> <li>Compliance with Children’s Act 2004 and Care Act 2014.</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The council’s approach to Safeguarding has been the subject of an Equality Impact Assessment and no negative consequences have been identified.</li> </ul>	
<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk</b> (before controls)	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk</b> (after controls)
Council fails to protect vulnerable children and adults, and are judged to be negligent.	Medium	Policy, procedures and training in place.	Low
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>		All Ward/s	
<b>Background papers:</b> <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		None	
<b>Documents attached:</b>		Appendix A: West Suffolk Safeguarding Policy – Guidelines for Working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	

## **1.0 Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 Local authorities have had a statutory responsibility under the Children's Act 2004 to safeguard children and young people. The councils adopted a revised joint Safeguarding Policy in December 2012 so that they had the necessary policy and procedures in place to ensure that they could meet these duties.
- 1.2 The Care Act 2014 extended these safeguarding duties from April 2015 to also include vulnerable adults and also required the establishment of a countywide Adult Safeguarding Board.
- 1.3 The revised and updated joint safeguarding policy will enable West Suffolk to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014 by establishing effective arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The features of effective arrangements as identified under the two Acts are:
- Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting welfare.
  - A clear statement of the agency's responsibilities towards children and vulnerable adults.
  - A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
  - Service development that takes account of the need to safeguard and promotes welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children or vulnerable adults.
  - Staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable for all staff working within or in direct contact with children, vulnerable adults and their families.
  - Safe recruitment procedures that undertake the necessary checks where required
  - Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
  - Effective information sharing, the legislation places a statutory to co-operate over the sharing of relevant information.

### **Suffolk Safeguarding Children (SSCB) and Adult Boards (SSAB)**

- 1.4 Both the Children's and Adult Safeguarding Boards are independent bodies set up under the relevant legislation to advise, monitor and evaluate what is done by the local authorities and board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. They are made up of representatives from the various statutory sector partners, including local authority representatives and have an independent chair.

- 1.5 In their monitoring role the Boards are required to undertake audits to ensure that partners are meeting and complying with the necessary requirements as set out in Section 1.1.3 above. Both Councils will be undergoing a full Section 11 Audit by the SSCB in April 2015 and an initial audit by the SSAB is anticipated later in the year.

### **Training**

- 1.6 The Councils jointly deliver internal safeguarding training to all public facing staff, the three hour Introduction to Safeguarding Training is quality assured by the SSCB and is being revised to include vulnerable adults.