

**REPORT TO:** CABINET

**DATE:** 14 JUNE 2018

**TITLE:** SAFEGUARDING POLICY

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** COUNCILLOR EUGENIE HARVEY, PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING

**LEAD OFFICER:** JANE GREER, HEAD OF COMMUNITY  
WELLBEING (01279) 446406

**CONTRIBUTING OFFICER:** CHRISTINE HOWARD, YOUTH AND CITIZENSHIP  
MANAGER (01279) 446192

**This is not a Key Decision**  
**It is on the Forward Plan as Decision Number I008742**  
**Call-in Procedures may apply**  
**This decision will affect no ward specifically.**

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- A** The revised and updated Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.

**REASON FOR DECISION**

- A** To ensure that the Council is compliant with Essex Safeguarding Children Board and Essex Safeguarding Adult Board requirements and can demonstrate best practice in relation to safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs.

**BACKGROUND**

1. The Council takes its responsibilities for the protection of children and adults with care and support needs seriously and has followed all relevant guidance and examples of good practice in the development of its child and adult protection policies and procedures.
2. The Council has noted the increase in themed areas of safeguarding work over recent years and this has been reflected in the updated policy. The updated policy also reflects changes to adult safeguarding as a result of the Care Act 2014.

## **ISSUES/PROPOSALS**

3. All staff and elected Members will be made aware of the updated policy via the Council's Infonet and staff weekly information sheet. Members of the public will be able to access the policy via the Council's website or in hard copy format upon request. The Council's Designated Safeguarding Officer will be available to provide advice and guidance on the updated policy if required.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Place (Includes Sustainability)**

None specific.

**Author: Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

### **Finance (Includes ICT)**

None specific.

**Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

### **Housing**

The proposed policy will provide clear roles, responsibilities and definitions of safeguarding to ensure all Officers are fully aware of their responsibilities when carrying out their roles, this will include the identification of a potential safeguarding concern and the process for reporting

**Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

### **Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)**

The Council has a duty to ensure that it has appropriate policies and procedures in place to protect and promote the welfare of children and young people and of vulnerable adults. The proposed policy represents best practice in that it covers both children and vulnerable adults.

**Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

### **Governance (Includes HR)**

The policy ensures that the Council complies with its legal duties and responsibilities regarding safeguarding of children and adults. The policy will be a corporate document combining all safeguarding duties and complements the Council's corporate priorities and values.

Councillors are reminded under the Equalities Act 2010 section 149, Public Sector Equality Duty, they need to have due regard to the aims of the duty at time the decision is made. The aim of the Duty is to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. All three of these aims apply to this policy.

The protected characteristics referred to above are: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, and pregnancy and maternity.

By adopting a combined policy, regardless of any of the protected characteristics, ensures that there are fewer barriers to reporting and thus ensure no one is discriminated against.

**Author: Amanda Julian, Legal Services Manager**

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Harlow Council Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy 2018/19-2020/21

## **Background Papers**

‘Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy’ report to Cabinet 21 February 2012

## **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

None.