

52. Safeguarding Policy

Paula Burton, Housing Solutions Manager

- a. presented the proposed Safeguarding Policy for comments prior to submission to Executive.
- b. advised that the proposed policy was being implemented by all district councils within Lincolnshire.
- c. explained that the joint policy would ensure that all districts would operate in the same way which would ensure consistency across the county and also enable the districts to support one another and assist each other should changes to working practices require amending.
- d. advised that there had been changes within safeguarding and there was now more focus on the areas of Hate Crime and Mate Crime, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, County Lines and Cuckooing and Stalking. The proposed policy had been written to reflect this.
- e. gave an overview of the chapters included in the Policy:
 - Chapter 1 – Safeguarding is everyone’s business – roles and responsibilities.
 - Chapter 2 – Safeguarding Children and Young People
 - Chapter 3 – Safeguarding Adults at Risk
 - Chapter 4 – Domestic Abuse
 - Chapter 5 – Preventing Violent Extremism
 - Chapter 6 – Hate Crime and Mate Crime
 - Chapter 7 – Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
 - Chapter 8 – County Lines and Cuckooing
 - Chapter 9 – Stalking
- f. advised that included in the appendices of the policy were declarations that were to be signed by all staff, volunteers, Members and contractors that declared that the person signing it was aware of the safeguarding responsibilities that were expected of them.
- g. advised that the proposed Safeguarding Policy and Procedures would be implemented with immediate effect and would be reviewed in 2022.
- h. invited members questions and comments.

Comment: Figures had been reported to Performance Scrutiny Committee recently that had shown an increase in the amount of hate crime reported. There was more of a focus on hate crime in this proposed policy which was welcomed.

Question: Had there been any referrals to PREVENT relating to preventing violent extremism?

Response: There had been 2 referrals but they had not come to anything.

Question: Did the Council assist vulnerable tenants to prevent cuckooing?

Response: Yes, consideration would be given to the area that the vulnerable person was housed, referrals could also be made to P3 for support. There had been instances of cuckooing in Lincoln, the issues were addressed via a multi-agency approach. The Protecting Vulnerable People Board were looking at ways to flag up these issues.

Question: Would there be any training on this policy for Members?

Response – Yes a Members Development training session was planned for 30th October 2019.

In addition to the report The Strategic Director of Housing and Investment explained the role of the Protecting Vulnerable People Board and reassured members that Safeguarding was taken very seriously within the Authority.

RESOLVED that the Safeguarding Policy be supported and referred to Executive for approval.