

SUBJECT:	PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE UPDATE
DIRECTORATE:	HOUSING & INVESTMENT
REPORT AUTHOR:	PAULA BURTON, HOUSING SOLUTIONS MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an annual update on the Protecting Vulnerable People work that has taken place over the last year.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Protecting Vulnerable People encompasses a range of legal duties and responsibilities designed to protect people's health, wellbeing and human rights and support them in preventing problems from escalating and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's Protecting Vulnerable People Group monitors the safeguarding work that is completed by officers in the Council. This includes all referrals made, cases that have an officer involved with them and all meetings attended by officers within the Council.
- 3.2 The responsibility of safeguarding is currently held by the Director of Housing and Investment and the operational Lead Officer is the Housing Solutions Manager. The Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour Manager is the designated Lead for Domestic Abuse, Prevent and Modern Day Slavery.

4. Work completed during the last year

- 4.1 Over the course of the last 18 months the City of Lincoln Councils Internal Safeguarding meeting has been rebranded as 'Protecting Vulnerable People' and has been expanded to encompass Hate/Mate Crime, PREVENT, Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Modern Slavery. This approach ensures that we have a co-ordinated approach to a range of safeguarding issues and can ensure that training of staff and any materials that may be needed to protect vulnerable people are centrally stored. The group have initially worked on a number of priorities that focus around training of staff and ensuring that reports are centrally stored and auditable.
- 4.2 In October 2019 a county wide Safeguarding Policy was agreed at Executive Committee and over the coming year all district councils in Lincolnshire will start to operate in a more consistent way. All district council Safeguarding Lead Officers meet regularly and also share the attendance of meetings when that is possible. However, the number of multi-agency safeguarding meetings that the council are expected to attend has increased.

- 4.3 The Council is signed up to the Modern Day Slavery Charter which ensures that the Council's procurement chain is free from modern slavery. The Modern Day Slavery statement is also in place for the Council and all staff are trained in the meaning of this.
- 4.4 The Council have contributed towards the Modern Day Slavery review into a major operation and the report will be published once it has been approved by the Home Office.
- 4.5 Whilst officers are carrying out their day to day work they are trained to identify safeguarding concerns. Should they come across a concern an internal safeguarding referral is made and should it be necessary this will also be referred to Children's Services or Adult's Services. Below are the number of referrals that have been made over the last 18 months.

The numbers are thought to be mainly due to staff being more aware of the signs to look out for and that staff are being encouraged to identify cases using an improved process.

Quarter	Children	Adults	Total
July – Sept 18/19	1	5	6
Oct – Dec 18/19	8	13	21
Jan – March 18/19	4	11	15
April – June 19/20	5	11	16
July – Sept 19/20	10	19	29
Oct – Dec 19/20	10	16	26
Total	38	75	113

5. Work in progress or ongoing

- 5.1 A page will shortly be published on City People that will contain all safeguarding information. This includes guidance and advice on the elements of safeguarding. It will also include advice about how to make referrals to other agencies and the relevant forms or contact details to do this. This information will be accessible to all staff and Member able to access City People.
- 5.2 Officers continue to follow the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children and Adults training pathway which includes online and face to face training. Each role within the Council is currently being reviewed by service managers to ensure that their staff are determined as requiring the correct level of training for their role. This then determines the level of the training pathway that is followed and compliance with this is monitored by the Protecting Vulnerable People Group.
- A verbal update will be provided during the meeting regarding the level of officers that are compliant with their training requirements.
- 5.3 Several Members have attended a safeguarding training event recently which covered all elements of safeguarding, including the newer sections included in the new Safeguarding Policy that has been adopted by the Council. Further training opportunities have been offered and arranged and any future training that Members required can be arranged by contacting Democratic Services.

- 5.4 All of the district councils within Lincolnshire are currently assessing the effectiveness and cost of implementing the Ecins IT system to record all safeguarding concerns and cases. This system is currently used by the Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour Team in Lincoln as part of the Community Safety Partnership but this will be a further development to introduce safeguarding to the system. The use of the system will provide a contextual approach to safeguarding and would enable users to identify if victims, perpetrators or vulnerable people are known to any other agency using the system.
- 5.5 Officers continue to attend multi-agency meetings for a variety of safeguarding reasons. These meetings include Multi-Agency Child Exploitation, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference and the Vulnerable Adults Panel. Our involvement at the meetings ensures that the agencies involved are working in a co-ordinated way to aim to reduce the risks to the people being discussed.
- 5.6 A business case is being prepared for the Corporate Management Team regarding the capacity of officers to fulfil the current and ongoing requirements of safeguarding. This will provide information on the number of hours being spent and the nature of the work that is being completed.

6. Future concerns

- 6.1 Although the nature of safeguarding referrals continues to be around similar referral reasons, there are also more unusual concerns being identified. Due to the successful training and publicity raising the awareness of officers and the public surrounding issues such as modern day slavery and exploitation there has been an increase in the number of concerns raised and subsequently cases that require assistance.
- 6.2 Lincolnshire County Council are currently reviewing their processes surrounding their approach to adult safeguarding and also how Housing Related Support is determined and allocated. A new approach is currently being consulted on and this could have a significant impact on the City Council depending on the amount of resources that would be offered to support the district councils in their proposed role. This proposed role could include assessing customers to determine what level of support they require and also staffing an increased number of multi-agency meetings to agree levels of support required. There is also a possibility that front line officers will be expected to have the elements of support they currently provide formalised.

7. Strategic Priorities

- 7.1 The provision of effective safeguarding is critical to the Council in the delivery of its core responsibilities. The proposals, as set out in this report, strengthen the resilience of the Council to ensure that referrals are encouraged, when necessary, and officers are supported to make those referrals and also to represent the Council at multi-agency meetings.

8. Organisational Impacts

- 8.1 Finance

This report is for information only and does not have any financial impacts.

8.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no specific legal implications arising as a result of this report.

8.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

There are no Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications as a result of this report.

8.4 Human Resources

There are no HR implications arising as a result of this report.

9. Risk Implications

9.1 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

10. Recommendation

10.1 Members of the committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? 0

List of Background Papers: None

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