

**REPORT UNDER RULE 2(VI) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES****Report by Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, Member Safeguarding Champion**

Madame Mayor, Members of the Council

**1. Introduction**

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

**2. Our Current Approach**

Over the last seven months the City of Lincoln Council has continued to embed the Safeguarding Policy approved in October 2019 and there have been some well attended training sessions for Members to update them on the changes. Officers have also continued to complete their training pathways with all officers being required to complete both a safeguarding course and a radicalisation course. A number of service areas also require their officers to complete a training pathway that is followed by all members of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership. This training involves a number of courses that cover all aspects of Protecting Vulnerable People and teaches the identifiable factors for different types of abuse, what actions should be taken and advice about making any necessary referrals.

Although the number of referrals that have been made has not increased compared to the same period of time last year, this has been with a reduced number of visits being made because of the Covid 19 restrictions in place. It is difficult for officers to be assured that vulnerable people are able to access help and support in these unusual times.

**3. Working with Others**

The Council continues to participate in a multi-agency approach to addressing risks to people and preventing harm. The number of meetings that officers are expected to attend has increased and it demonstrates that the Council are participating in trying to improve problems and unfortunately there are some complex problems that require all partners to work together. This has also resulted in the contributions that officers have made being complimented by other partners.

**4. New Approaches and Initiatives – Moving Forward**

There is also a new contextual safeguarding model being used in one of the areas in the city which involves all partners that work in the area using their powers and resources in a co-ordinated way with the aim of making the area a safer, healthier and

nicer place to live. If this pilot (and another in West Lindsey) are successful it is likely that this new approach will be used more in the future.

A new approach called Team Around the Adult was expected to be in place by now but had to be delayed until the New Year. This is a process for all people requiring support or assistance to be assessed and then referred to the appropriate level of support by the most appropriate partner. This will also include the Housing Related Support process which has started prior to the rest of the scheme and went live on 1 October 2020. This approach is expected to improve the process for supporting people by ensuring that there is a transparent process in place with clear criteria and appropriate referrals being made and therefore more likely to be accepted. The concern for the Council is that a large part of this process is to be hosted by the district councils in a Vulnerable Adults Panel with the Council also processing all requests for Housing Related Support. Lincolnshire County Council are currently recruiting for some officers to co-ordinate and assist with the process but there has been no confirmation of how long this will be for and how much of the process they will assist with.

The Serious Organised Crime Group for Modern Slavery is developing new guidance notes for all partners to rollout to staff and part of this is the new Modern Slavery Charter that was tabled at November's Executive Committee.

As part of the last update to Council it was communicated that a new computer system was being explored for all partners to use. Further work has taken place on this and it has been confirmed that the majority of officers that would require access to the system already have access for public protection and anti-social behaviour reasons so processes are being explored to rollout the use of the system next year.

## **5. Feedback and Monitoring**

The Council has received feedback from the Lincolnshire Assurance and Assessment Framework for Adults Safeguarding and there were no areas of concern raised. This is an audit that is not verified and is a self-assessment.

In January 2021 the Council is due to upload their evidence for the Section 11 Children's Audit. This is a statutory requirement and involves verification visits by peers and a formal assessment being provided to the Council. The outcome will be reported to members through the normal channels.

I would like to end by giving special thanks to Paula Burton, Safeguarding Officer at the council for providing the relevant information required to compile this report.

**Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, Member Safeguarding Champion**