

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHORS:</b>	<b>JOANNE SMITH, SAFEGUARDING LEAD; MICHELLE HOYLES, BUSINESS MANAGER – CORPORATE POLICY AND TRANSFORMATION</b>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide to the Policy Scrutiny Committee a summary of the key issues, trends and statistical data currently associated with Protecting Vulnerable People and the Council's Safeguarding Policy. This summary includes an overview of the types of cases being reported or occurring within Lincoln, and the Council's continued compliance with statutory safeguarding requirements.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 This report, along with reports to Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Group and to Corporate Management Team, ensures that statutory compliance with safeguarding requirements can be monitored, and provides an opportunity to impart key information on current and emerging public safety concerns within the city and surrounding areas.

- 2.2 This report contains a series of updates covering the following topics:

- Training
- Safeguarding children and young people
- Safeguarding adults
- Domestic abuse and Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service
- Internal safeguarding referrals
- Prevent
- Audit
- Policy update
- Case management and central records
- Future workstreams

## **3. Training**

- 3.1 Safeguarding training is a mandatory requirement for all staff member and is part of the Council's corporate induction process. In addition, for identified job roles that require advanced knowledge of safeguarding there is a 6 year training pathway provided by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP), Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (LDAP). Internal consultation has recently been undertaken

with all service managers, during which some service areas have identified additional training needs for their officers at an intermediate level.

- 3.2 The corporate safeguarding training programme is currently being reviewed to take account of this feedback, and to ensure all relevant officers continue to maintain the required level of safeguarding knowledge following staffing changes within the core group of safeguarding specialists within the Council. Training will continue to be rolled out throughout the year to both officers and elected members. Member overview training is scheduled for June 2023.
- 3.3 Completion of this staff training is being monitored internally by the Safeguarding Lead Officer, and any compliance concerns will be reported to the Protecting Vulnerable People Group. The Chair of the PVP Group will continue to escalate any concerns to the Corporate Management Team if necessary.

#### **4. Safeguarding Children and Young People**

- 4.1 Officers continue to correctly identify and make safeguarding referrals where needs arise.

4.2

The majority of tasks linked to safeguarding children involve officers attending Child in Need meetings and Child Protection Conferences. There have been a small number of meetings that officers have been requested to attend.

Given that interaction with City Council services is predominantly with adults, the number of direct safeguarding referrals regarding children is lower than for adults. The number has increased on the previous years.

		<b>20/21</b>	<b>21/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>
Children Referrals	Safeguarding	10	4	27

However, district council officers have an active role in multi-agency case meetings and support for young people in the city. This includes MACE meetings to discuss concerns of Child Exploitation. In 2022, Lincoln had the highest number of recorded victims of child exploitation discussed at MACE for Lincolnshire districts, which is to be expected within a City. This remained consistent with 2021.

#### **5. Safeguarding Adults**

- 5.1 The number of adult safeguarding referrals in the City remains high.

	<b>20/21</b>	<b>21/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>
Adult Safeguarding Referrals	93	69	154

- 5.2 Additionally, the complexity and severity of some cases are concerning. Officers continue to report and process cases effectively and actively contribute to multi-agency responses and support.

The nature of recent adult safeguarding referrals can be broadly categorised as follows:

- Multiple complex hoarding cases
- Older persons neglecting themselves and/or being neglected by carers
- Self-harm and suicidal thoughts
- Mental illness
- Potential cuckooing and criminal exploitation

5.3 Partnership working is key to safeguarding activity and the policy and the Council is an active partner within the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB). The LSAB Strategic Plan was developed during 2022, based on a joint needs assessment. There are four strategic priorities within this plan which are;

**Priority 1: Prevention & Early Intervention** – a focus on keeping people safe by mitigating safeguarding risks before they escalate

**Priority 2: Learning & shaping future practice** – to ensure that the learning from all our reviews and assurance activities is shared and embedded within partner agencies to reduce the risk of repeat incidents or causes of harm

**Priority 3: Safeguarding Effectiveness** – ensuring the effective operation and continuous improvement of the governance, scrutiny and business processes in place to support the board to work effectively

**Priority 4: Making Safeguarding Personal** – ensuring that all LSAB partners can consistently evidence a Making Safeguarding Personal approach to safeguarding practice.

5.4 Current county-wide multi-agency work focused on the Hoarding Protocol and the development of a protocol and support options for self-neglect are particularly relevant to the types of safeguarding adult issues being seen in Lincoln.

5.5 For Lincoln, there are two local partnership areas of focus to provide support for vulnerable residents in the community. In 2022, Lincoln successfully joined the 'MEAM Approach network' working with Development Plus, Transform Lincoln-Active Faith Network & Bridge Church, IMP Primary Care Network and Heart of Lincoln Partnership PCN. The Making Every Adult Matter approach helps local areas design and deliver better co-ordinated services for individuals experiencing multiple disadvantages and is being utilised by place-based partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies in 42 local areas across England. Further updates on this work will be provided as this develops. In addition to MEAM, options for focused casework and multi-agency support through a Lincoln Vulnerable Adults Panel is being considered with a focus on individuals known to the council who need support from services for prevention, early intervention or a different approach.

## 6. Domestic Abuse

6.1 During Quarter 4 (2022/23), the number of Lincoln-based Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) cases discussed are as follows:

- January 21
- February 16
- March 16

- 6.2 The Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (LDASS) replaced EDAN Lincs from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. In addition to the services already provided, there will be online support and information, and further support for children and young people. This changes how officers refer individuals to the new service, insofar as it introduces a requirement for a formal referral to be made and a DASH risk assessment completed. This new service also provides a digitally based Universal Offer to anyone who is looking for information or support relating to domestic abuse in Lincolnshire. Residents can access the Support Hub, online training, specialist adult support, recovery, support for children and young people and also advice for residents who are worried about someone.

## 7. Internal Safeguarding Referrals

- 7.1 The table below summarises the number of referrals and requests made by Council employees for safeguarding advice and support over the past three years:

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022 -2023
<b>Number of referrals</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>181</b>
Tenancy	27	10	48
HRS	10	12	22
Housing Strategy	12	1	3
Independent Living	0		28
Rough Sleeper Team	1	14	20
Housing Solutions	4	6	18
Benefits	1		1
Council Tax	2		2
Welfare Team	2	3	
Councillors	1		
Customer Services	26	14	30
Private Sector Housing	4	2	5
PA	1		1
PPASB	10	7	
Arboricultural		1	
Legal Services		1	
Licencing		1	
Safeguarding		1	
Pollution			1
City Centre			1
External	2		1
<b>Total adult referrals</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Total child referrals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>

- 7.2 The majority of internal safeguarding referrals relate to concerns for the welfare of adults. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of internal referrals, however officers believe this is primarily a result of the positive steps taken to ensure safeguarding by teams across the authority and appropriate levels of training and awareness.

## **8. Prevent**

- 8.1 The Council continues to be represented at the Prevent Steering Group, and the PPASB and Licensing Manager the Prevent lead for the organisation. Prevent is one of the four elements making up 'Contest,' the Government's Counter Terrorism strategy. Prevent aims to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals who are at risk of radicalisation and to enable those engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate. Increasing and refreshing staff awareness around Prevent is a key action for 23/24 and the Council will be introducing new e-learning resources to all employees in the near future. These e-learning materials are being provided to local authorities by the Home Office.

## **9. Audit**

- 9.1 The Local Authority Audit Framework (LAAF) audit for safeguarding adults has been verified and agreed by the LSAB Partnership and Executive Boards.
- 9.2 In 2022, Safeguarding received substantial assurance from an internal audit.

## **10. Policy Update**

- 10.1 The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed in 23/24 to update on any national changes to best practice, guidance, or statutory duties or to reflect any updates in local partnership strategy or multi-agency procedures. The draft updated policy will be brought back to Policy Scrutiny Panel for feedback.
- 10.2 The updates provided in this report demonstrates that the policy is working well and gives assurance that it is being implemented.

## **11. Case Management and Central Records**

- 11.1 A central record for safeguarding referrals has been considered and a local system, E-CINS will be used to record safeguarding or potential safeguarding cases. E-CINS software is already in use for recording and tracking anti-social behaviour across the county. This will significantly improve how safeguarding referrals are recorded and updated and will also enable adults of concern and locations of concern to be captured. Officers are currently exploring how MARAC and MACE information can be incorporated into E-CINS to increase the effectiveness of intelligence gathering in these key areas.

## **12. Future Workstreams**

- 12.1 Due to key improvements made over the last few years to training and development, officers are now more confident in dealing with day to day safeguarding issues. This has enabled the new Safeguarding Lead to increase

their focus on multi-agency work, and improve the Council's contribution to multi-agency meetings. The training and information across services allows for routine advice to be managed officers and line managers, enabling the Safeguarding Lead to capture and review referrals for themes and trends, to offer enhanced support to residents where needed, and providing advice on more complex cases. An option for 'safeguarding champions' across the organisation is being considered to further embed knowledge and peer support across the authority. This will provide greater resilience to the Council and enables safeguarding issues across the authority to be dealt with quickly and effectively.

#### 12.2 Key actions for Q1 and Q2 of 2023/24 include;

- 1) Determine a suite of PIs to monitor both compliance and demand.
- 2) Refresh the 6-year training pathway for all roles across the Council.
- 3) Deliver a programme of Member training and awareness over the year.
- 4) Finalise an annual briefing and comms plan.
- 5) Review options for further Domestic Abuse support
- 6) Review local case management processes for Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRAC), Vulnerable Adults Panel (VAP), Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) to ensure an appropriate whole systems approach and maximise effectiveness.

### 13. Organisational Impacts

#### 13.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no finance implications arising from this report.

#### 13.2 Legal

As outlined in the report.

#### 13.3 Equality & Diversity and Human Rights

There are no direct E&D impacts arising from this report.

### 14. Risk Implications

- 14.1 Protecting Vulnerable People and Prevent are risks on the Strategic Risk Register for the authority and are monitored in accordance with its requirements. At this current time there are no concerns to raise in respect of the risks.

### 15. Recommendation

- 15.1 To note the report and to provide comments as needed for future work and on the content for inclusion in the Policy Scrutiny report.

<b>Is this a key decision?</b>	No
<b>Do the exempt information categories apply?</b>	No
<b>Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?</b>	No
<b>How many appendices does the report contain?</b>	None
<b>List of Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Joanne Smith, Safeguarding Lead Email:joanne.smith@lincoln.gov.uk