

Consultees	Not consulted	Deadline date for comments	Initial when completed	Date on which completed
Legal:				
Finance				
Alison Scott				
Other:				

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
17 November 2023

PART I

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk
Policy 2023-2026
(ADSPH)

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends changes to the Council's Safeguarding Children Young People and Adults at Risk Policy to bring it up to date and in line with the requirements of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Council last reviewed its Safeguarding Children Young People and Adults at Risk Policy in March 2020. The Council has a duty under the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014 to work in partnership to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk.

2 Details

- 2.1 This policy and its associated procedures will ensure that the council is compliant with the responsibilities and expectations within the Government's Legislation and Guidance including 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'. The overall safeguarding responsibility is that of Hertfordshire County Council.
- 2.2 The new draft policy is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.3 This policy has been reviewed by all Designated Safeguarding leads, Human Resources and Corporate Management Team.
- 2.4 The key changes to the previous policy are:
- Updated roles and responsibility of the council, as management and as members of staff or elected members in relation to the safeguarding of adults and children.
 - Updates in line with government legislation and guidance including the addition of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2023 and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
 - Updated risks and added new descriptions of abuse to include economical abuse and breast ironing. In addition, we have included child criminal exploitation on top of the county lines definition. A further appendix has been created with further details on some areas to ensure the policy is clear and concise.
 - Updated the guidelines on how to report and log concerns to align Hertfordshire procedures.
- 2.5 The council helps adults at risk maintain choice and control, safety, health, quality of life, dignity, and respect.

- 2.6 The council ensure that all staff, volunteers, members, and contractors understand the reporting mechanisms and procedures for any concerns of abuse or neglect.
- 2.7 The new policy reflects and supports the process of good practice when managing individual safeguarding cases and concerns. These cases are managed by the council's Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). The DSLs are a group of internal staff that have undertook the appropriate training, have met the relevant Disclosure and Barring Service clearance to enable them to carry out the safeguarding processes and investigations. The group meet monthly to discuss casework, process and referrals and look at any changes in legislation or communications from government.
- 2.8 The Human Resources team are responsible for the function of arranging training for staff, keeping records of training needs and dates along with carrying out the relevant Disclosure Barring Checks and in doing so maintain safer recruitment practices.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Policy and Resources agree the new Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk Policy and recommend to Council on 12th December for adoption.
- 3.2 The reason for the recommendation is that the Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk Policy was last agreed in March 2020 and needed reviewing and updating to comply with government legislation. The areas that have been updated in the policy also include legislation, roles, responsibilities, and descriptions along with the incorporation of new risks that may not have existed when the previous policy was written.
- 3.3 For Three Rivers District Council to adopt the new policy to further strengthen their commitment to make the Three Rivers district a place where people feel welcome, belong and safe.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's budgets.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report are not within the Council's agreed policy as this is a new policy.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Under the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014 the Council has a duty to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.1 Relevance Test

1. Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	2. Yes
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3. Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	4. No
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7.2 Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix B

8 Staffing Implications

8.1 All staff will continue to undertake mandatory e-learning for safeguarding to ensure the policy is followed.

9 Environmental Implications

9.1 None Arising

10 Public Health implications

10.1 None Arising

11 Customer Services Centre Implications

11.1 The new policy reflects the role of the Customer Services Centre

11.2 The Customer Service Centre take a number of safeguarding concerns from the public, given that they are usually the first person to communicate without public. Their role is to log the concern and either discuss with a DSL or send to the DSL Safeguarding inbox for the duty DSL to action. This is usually based on the severity of the concern.

12 Communications and Website Implications

12.1 The new policy will be provided on the website. The forms and additional policy and procedures are available for staff and councillors on the intranet as well.

13 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

13.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

13.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Strategy and Partnerships service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
The Council's Safeguarding Policy is not up to date.	The Council is not able to demonstrate its compliance with the	Policy to be reviewed every 3 years. Procedures	Treat	2

	requirements of the Children Safeguarding Partners and Adult Safeguarding Board and this is brought to public attention	and guidance on safeguarding to be reviewed on an annual basis.		
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13.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

2. Very Likely Remote ↓ 1. Likelihood	3. Low 4. 4	5. High 6. 8	7. Very High 8. 12	9. Very High 10. 16
	11. Low 12. 3	13. Medium 14. 6	15. High 16. 9	17. Very High 18. 12
	19. Low 20. 2	21. Low 22. 4	23. Medium 24. 6	25. High 26. 8
	27. Low 28. 1	29. Low 30. 2	31. Low 32. 3	33. Low 34. 4
	35. Impact			
	36. Low	-----▶		Unacceptable

Impact Score
 4 (Catastrophic)
 3 (Critical)
 2 (Significant)
 1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score
 4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
 3 (Likely (21-79%))
 2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
 1 (Remote (≤5%))

14 Recommendation

14.1 That Policy and Resources Committee adopts the new Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk Policy 2023-2026 and recommends to Council on 12th December 2023.

14.2 That public access to the report be immediate.

14.3 That public access to the decision be immediate.

Report prepared by:

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Data Quality

Data Sources: No data provided.

Background Papers

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk Policy

Appendix B Short Equalities Impact Assessment