

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK**

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

This is a record of a decision taken by the officers under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

**Delegated Power**

Specify the particular delegated power being exercised by reference to the Delegation Scheme or Cabinet minute and date.

Delegated authority to update the Council's Safeguarding Policy given to Executive Director, Central and Community Services and Leader (as relevant Portfolio Holder) at Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

**Decision Taken**

Specify precise details of the decision taken

To agree minor revisions and updates to the Council's Safeguarding Policy to ensure it remains compliant with legislation and best practice advice from the Norfolk Safeguarding Boards (which are themselves statutory bodies). The amendments do not amount to a change of policy or approach by the Borough Council.

**Reasons for the Decision**

Specify all reasons for taking the decision

The Council's current safeguarding policy was agreed by Cabinet in April 2017 and is now subject to review to ensure it remains compliant with legislation and best practice. The key changes since that date, which are reflected in the updated policy, are:

- The Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Partnership (NSCP) (formally the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board) and updated guidance and best practice recommended by the Partnership, which the Borough Council is expected to comply with. It is a requirement of the Children Act 2004 that all Local Authorities have a Local Safeguarding Children Partnership. A statutory body, these Partnerships ensure that children are protected from harm and do so by providing a structure for statutory and voluntary partners to safeguard children. The updates proposed to the Council's policy reflect changes required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and national guidance set out in Working Together 2018 which the NSCP require us to adopt. NSCP has been consulted on the proposed revisions to the Council's safeguarding policy and their recommendations have been included in the revised draft policy.
- The Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) and updated guidance and best practice recommended by this Board. The Care Act 2014 states that all Local Authorities must have a Safeguarding Adults Board to work with statutory and non-statutory partners to address the issues protecting adults from abuse, reducing the risk of abuse and supporting people to stop abuse where it happens. The NSAB leads adult safeguarding arrangements across Norfolk and oversees and coordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its partners. NSAB has been consulted on the proposed revisions to the Council's safeguarding policy and their recommendations have been included in the revised draft policy.
- A section outlining in detail the roles and responsibilities for safeguarding within the Council. This addition has arisen as a result of an internal audit of our child protection arrangements which has highlighted this as best practice adopted by other Council's.
- An updated section on relevant legislation and guidance which includes reference to the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and changes to Prevent.
- Some minor revisions to layout/order and some additional wording to clarify existing arrangements within the Council.

Members should note that the proposed revisions do not reflect any changes to the Council's policy approach to safeguarding or our existing procedures for how to respond to/report safeguarding concerns.

**Options considered**

1. No update undertaken – this would leave the Council with a Policy which includes out of date references with regards to safeguarding practice within Norfolk (as determined by changes to legislation)
2. Defer updates until a later date – this would also leave the Council with a Policy which includes out of date references with regards to safeguarding practice within Norfolk (as determined by changes to legislation) for an interim period
3. Implement updated policy – work undertaken during 2022 to re-assess our current position with regards to safeguarding activities has been completed as one of our recovery actions following the COVID19 pandemic. As the work has identified the need for some updates now is the appropriate time to implement these in an update policy.
4. Re-write the policy – the review work undertaken during 2022 has demonstrated that the Council's existing policy is comprehensive and complete, except for the minor revisions/updates proposed. It was not felt appropriate or necessary to undertake a complete re-write of the policy at this time.

**Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.**

None.

**List of Background papers**

Safeguarding Policy as adopted by Full Council in July 2017

**Authorisation**

Post Held Executive Director

Signature 

Date 13.01.23

**Consultation with members/officers**

**If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:**

**Signed by Member as consulted:** 

Date 13.01.23

# Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk**



|   |  |  |          |   |         |        |
|---|--|--|----------|---|---------|--------|
| Name of policy/service/function   |  | Safeguarding Policy  |          |   |         |        |
| Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?   |  | Existing   |          |   |         |        |
| Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened.<br>Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations   |  | To reflect revised operational arrangements for the provision of leisure services since the transfer of all leisure staff to Alive West Norfolk on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019 |          |   |         |        |
| <b>Question</b>   |  | <b>Answer</b>  |          |   |         |        |
| <p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups <b>according to their different protected characteristic</b>, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p> |  |  | Positive | Negative  | Neutral | Unsure |
|   |  | Age  | √        |   |         |        |
|   |  | Disability   | √        |   |         |        |
|   |  | Gender   |          |   | √       |        |
|   |  | Gender Re-assignment   |          |   | √       |        |
|   |  | Marriage/civil partnership   | √        |   |         |        |
|   |  | Pregnancy & maternity  |          |   | √       |        |
|   |  | Race   | √        |   |         |        |
|   |  | Religion or belief   | √        |   |         |        |
|   |  | Sexual orientation   |          |   | √       |        |
| Other (eg low income)   |  |  | √        |   |         |        |
| <b>Question</b>   |  | <b>Answer</b>  |          | <b>Comments</b>   |         |        |
| 2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?  |  | No   |          |   |         |        |
| 3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?  |  | No   |          |   |         |        |
| 4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?  |  | No   |          |   |         |        |
| 5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions?<br>If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section   |  | Yes  |          | <p><b>Actions: The policy covers safeguarding of children and therefore has a positive impact on the provision of services to young people. There are also positive impacts on other potentially disadvantaged groups through Domestic Abuse legislation and Prevent.</b></p> <p><b>Actions agreed by EWG member:</b><br/>.....</p> |         |        |
| <b>Assessment completed by:</b><br><b>Name</b> Becky Box  |  |  |          |   |         |        |
| <b>Job title</b> Assistant Director Central Services  |  | <b>Date</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022  |          |   |         |        |

**Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.**