

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 January 2016

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet

1 DRAFT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

To consider the Draft Safeguarding Policy and to recommend its adoption by the Cabinet

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Council has had a Child Protection Policy in place for a number of years, but there currently isn't a formal policy in place for Adults at Risk. Rather than having separate policies for children and adults, the decision was taken to have a combined policy and to include the reporting procedure and action plan within it.

1.1.2 In response to the need to have this in place, the Council's recently established Safeguarding Task Group have drafted the "Safeguarding Policy and Reporting Procedure for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk" (Annex 1).

1.2 Aims of the Safeguarding Policy

1.2.1 The policy aims to ensure that an overarching approach to safeguarding is embedded within all Council services and that staff, elected Members, those delivering services on behalf of the Council and volunteers have a good understanding of safeguarding guidelines and good practice.

The policy aims to:

- Raise awareness of the duties and responsibilities for children, young people and adults at risk of harm
- Encourage good practice among staff, elected members, volunteers and contractors, to safeguard children and adults at risk who receive Council services
- Provide clear guidance on procedures to be adopted if it is suspected that an adult, young person or child may be at risk of harm

1.3 Safeguarding Action Plan

- 1.3.1 The Council has formed an officer level Safeguarding Task Group to ensure the completion of targets within the Safeguarding Action Plan and ensure the Council stay up to date with Safeguarding knowledge and best practice. Progress on the Action Plan will be reported regularly to the Council's Management Team and on an annual basis to the relevant Council Advisory Board to ensure Councillors are fully informed of safeguarding issues.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 None

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 N/A

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 N/A

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 That the Draft Safeguarding Policy and Reporting Procedure for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk be endorsed and recommended for adoption by Cabinet.

Background papers:

contact: Gill Fox

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive