

# Surrey Heath Borough Council

## Executive

20 June 2023

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### Safeguarding Policy

<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Lisa Finan-Cooke, Housing, Safeguarding and Support
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Nick Steevens
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jayne Boitault, Community Safety Officer
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Date Portfolio Holder signed off the report</b>	6 June 2023
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	N/A

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#### Summary and purpose

This report provides the Executive with details of amendments to the Safeguarding Policy that Surrey Heath Borough Council has adopted.

The revised Policy was considered by the Joint Staff Consultative Group at its meeting on 2 March 2023 and latterly Employment Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> March where the policy was deferred pending further clarification on the governance procedures.

#### Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that the revised Safeguarding Policy and Procedure, as attached at Annex A to this report, be adopted.

#### 1. Background and Supporting Information

- 1.1 The Council's Safeguarding Policy provides guidance to officers to prevent and reduce the risk of harm to adults and children from abuse and/or other types of exploitation while supporting individuals to maintain control over their lives and enabling them to make informed decisions without coercion. The Policy has been reviewed and considered by the Joint Staff Consultative Group as part of the annual review.
- 1.2 The aims of safeguarding are to:
  - Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect
  - Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
  - Prevent impairment of development and enable individuals to have the best outcomes

- Safeguard individuals in such a way that supports them in making choices and having control over how they want to live
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the individual
- Raising public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect
- Provide accessible information and support to help people understand what constitutes abuse and neglect, and how to respond
- Address what has caused the abuse or neglect

- 1.3 Safeguarding of children and adults at risk are governed by separate Government legislation and separate Surrey County Council safeguarding boards/partnerships. To reflect this governance the policy considers the safeguarding of children and adults at risk independently.
- 1.4 The policy complements and supports the agreed multi-agency procedures set down by the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership and Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 1.5 The key changes within this policy relate to senior staff changes and the increase in safeguarding champions as the first point of contact for any concerns. The Council has also reviewed and updated its training programme for staff.

## **2. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 To ensure that the Safeguarding Policy is up to date and reflects best practice.

## **3. Proposal and Alternative Options**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the revised Safeguarding Policy is adopted, with or without any further amendments considered appropriate.

## **4. Contribution to the Council's Five Year Strategy**

- 4.1 The adoption of the Safeguarding Policy meets the following Aim and Action:
- Health & Quality of Life – *A Safe Place to Live and Work:- Raise awareness and deliver training to all front-line staff on safeguarding and domestic abuse and the action that can be taken to protect victims.*

## **5. Section 151 Officer Comments:**

- 5.1 There are no additional budgetary implications from this report, and can be contained within existing budgets.

**6. Legal and Governance Issues**

- 6.1 Amendments to adopted policies are a function of the Executive. Any substantial amendment to the Safeguarding Policy will therefore require consideration by the Executive.

**7. Monitoring Officer Comments:**

- 7.1 None

**8. Resource Implications**

- 8.1 There are no additional resource implications arising from the adoption of the revised Policy.

**Annexes**

Annex A – Safeguarding Policy