

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Care Services Manager

REPORT NO. CSM13

DATE: 6th June 2005

TITLE:	Protection of Vulnerable People – Policy & Procedures
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Protection of Vulnerable Persons
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	1 st January 2005
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr P Martin-Mayhew
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Vulnerable People
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	None
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	To be included in Publication Scheme
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Protection of Vulnerable People – Policy & Procedures Previously submitted to Cabinet on 7 th February 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Cabinet received report CSM11 at the meeting held on 7th February 2005.

The report demonstrated what the Council's responsibilities and obligations are in respect of protecting vulnerable members of the community, clarified what is requested of staff and Members in relation to the protection of children and vulnerable people and sets out standards of behaviour for staff when they are around vulnerable people and what to do if they notice or are told about inappropriate behaviour in others.

In addition, the policy and procedures ensured compliance with Lincolnshire County Council procedures and involvement with the Area Child Protection Committee, and to ensure consistency of action cross the whole of the authority's workforce.

1.2 Cabinet therefore resolved :

- To approve the draft Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable People in principle, subject to consultation;
- To invite comments from the Community DSP, key agencies and organisations through a process of consultation;
- Following the consultation period, to refer any proposed amendments to the Policy and Procedure back to the Cabinet before final submission to the Council for consideration and approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Protection of Vulnerable People Policy and Procedures are amended to take account of the consultation comments outlined in this report and that a revised version of the documents are submitted to Full Council at the meeting to be held on 23rd June 2005 for approval and implementation.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY PANEL

3.1 Members of the Community Development and Scrutiny Panel were invited to comment on the policy document and procedures, as part of the wider consultation process, at their recent meeting on 31st May 2005.

A verbal report will be provided at the meeting as to comments made.

4. WIDER CONSULTATION

4.1 Cabinet resolved to invite comments from other key agencies and organisations to ensure their views and opinions were taken into account.

The Policy and Procedures have been widely circulated to :-

Lincolnshire Social Services
Members of the Lincolnshire South West Area Older People's Implementation Team
North Kesteven District Council
Lincs SW Primary Care Trust
Kesteven Age Concern,
SKDC District Compact,
Unison and other staff groups
Senior Officers of the council.

4.2 Extracts of comments made in response to this consultation are shown below for information :-

LEISURE & CULTURAL SERVICES, SKDC

Section 6 of the original report – CONCLUSIONS - add “taking account of Lincolnshire Sports Partnership Child Protection Policy” as well as the other references you refer to.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, SKDC

“A sensible approach”.....”Must be careful to balance our responsibilities against the possibility of allegations against staff. Suggest change of emphasis in the training to cover issues such as

- what to report
- how to report it and
- who to report issues to”.

SKDC DISTRICT COMPACT

A presentation was made about the policy and procedures at the District Compact meeting held on 25th April 2005. There was unanimous approval as to the introduction of this piece of work and a request made that opportunities should be created for Compact Representatives to have appropriate awareness training on the issues.

UNISON

Would welcome its' introduction.

NORTH KESTEVEN DC

“The document looks to be comprehensive and reads quite easily. It looks as though it will fulfil the requirements of Supporting People, etc., - providing that you back it up with a recording mechanism that provides evidence of the reporting of, and action in response to, relevant suspicions. Need to appropriately evidence staff (and in some cases Service User) training about potential abuse”.

SERVICE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT, OLDER PEOPLES SERVICES LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

“The procedures look really comprehensive. There is a plethora of information about this and complicated legal detail to cover within Adult Protection and the

policy seems to have cut through this and made sure the guidance covers everything clearly, without getting bogged down in all the nitty gritty.

Request consideration be given to dealing with any delays in the system while the alert moves from staff to care manager to SSD/Police. What is the process if the care manager is unavailable? (not only leave but also out of hours and weekends)

Need to discuss in detail the referral process from Care Manager to SSD".

LINCS SOUTH WEST PRIMARY CARE TRUST

"Consideration of including Awareness Training on these issues in induction for all new staff. Found the flow chart (appendix B) very clear, and think that awareness training plus knowledge of the process for all staff are the areas to focus on".

AGE CONCERN, KESTEVEN

"Under section 4 - types of abuse - adults and older people, you omit to refer to the abuse which older Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender people can suffer within your categories of abuse. This group of people can suffer quite extreme abuse, either within relationships, or from outside sources, including in care homes and from the communities within which they live, particularly in rural areas. I do think it is important that you mention this group".

5. COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & STRATEGIC RESOURCES

None.

6. COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC & LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

None.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

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