



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20th February 2020

Report of: Councillor Annie Mason

Cabinet Member for Communities



Safeguarding Policy 2020 - 2023

Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014 the Council has responsibilities with regard to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults with needs of care and support. This report brings to the attention of Members the development of a joint Safeguarding Policy which has been designed to be relevant to all seven of the district councils across Lincolnshire.

Report Author

Carol Drury, Community Engagement and Policy Development Officer



01476 406 161



c.drury@southkesteven.gov.uk

Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
Administrative	Administrative	All Wards

Reviewed by:	Mark Jones, Community Resilience Lead	30 January 2020
Approved by:	Harry Rai, Interim Strategic Director, Growth	31 January 2020
Signed off by:	Councillor Annie Mason, Cabinet Member for Communities	4 February 2020

Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. **Members of Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to review the Safeguarding Policy 2020 and put forward any comments based on their local knowledge of any South Kesteven-specific content they feel should be included.**
2. **Members are further asked and to comment and make recommendation on the proposed mandatory increase in Member training and to recommend to Cabinet the approval of this policy.**

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 The seven District Councils of Lincolnshire have worked together to develop a combined Safeguarding Policy to reflect responsibilities a district authority has in regard to the protection of adults and children. The policy and the procedures for referring incidents and concerns, which can be found at appendix A, reflects the legal duties and moral responsibilities of the Council in safeguarding individuals from significant harm.
- 1.2 The Council has statutory duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Section 14 of the Care Act 2014 to protect people from harm and neglect and to co-operate with other agencies.
- 1.3 As a District Council, responsibilities for safeguarding both children and adults are, in essence, the same – to report incidents or concerns to the responsible authority (Lincolnshire County Council) and to work with other agencies to ensure the welfare of children and vulnerable adults within this district. The policy also provides guidance to officers and members for interventions when a safeguarding threshold is not met but the individual is in need of support (Early Intervention).
- 1.4 This policy covers the period 2020-2023 and will be reviewed on a three-yearly basis, however, any changes to legislation or statutory guidance will be made with immediate effect during this period if required.
- 1.5 The policy includes a generic overview of safeguarding responsibilities and also includes topic-specific chapters which provide information and guidance relating to:
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Preventing Violent Extremism
 - Hate Crime and Mate Crime
 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
 - County Lines and Cuckooing
 - Stalking
 - Mobile Families
- 1.6 Whilst some of these headings relate to criminal activity, they have at their core vulnerable individuals often groomed into negative behaviours who are themselves victims requiring support.
- 1.7 The policy also contains a six-year training pathway for staff which is necessary to meet the requirements of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP), the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adult Board (LSAB) and the National Competencies set out for child and adult safeguarding.

Historically, Elected Members have received an in-house briefing relating to Safeguarding responsibilities as part of the induction programme following an election. This policy sets out in chapter 1 (pages 12/13) a new requirement for Members to complete an e-learning module relating to **Safeguarding Everyone in Lincolnshire** within their first year in office. The new policy also features a further requirement for all Members to complete additional safeguarding-related e learning modules during their term of office. Those being:

- Hate Crime and Mate Crime
- Friends Against Scams
- Understanding Pathways to Extremism and the Prevent Agenda
- Trafficking, Exploitation and Modern Slavery

The Committee is asked to consider whether this e learning, which is provided free-of-charge via the LSCP/LSAB, should be a mandatory requirement for all Members to complete following election/re-election.

2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 Feedback from members of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny is welcomed and will be included within the subsequent report when the Safeguarding Policy is put before Cabinet for approval.

3 Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could retain its existing Safeguarding Policy and accompanying Procedures but in doing so would operate in isolation in this respect from other the District Councils of Lincolnshire.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 The preferred option is for the Council to adopt the combined Districts' Safeguarding policy.

5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)

- 5.1 By adopting the Safeguarding Policy which has been developed to reflect district authority responsibility, the Council has consistency with its District partners whilst maintaining the requirements of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adult Board.
- 5.2 By increasing the requirement on Members to undertake safeguarding training the Council is assured that appropriate steps will be taken in the identification and reporting of safeguarding concerns.

6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision

- 6.1 Following recommendations made by Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Safeguarding Policy 2020-2023 will be presented to Cabinet for approval at its March meeting. Once formally approved, the Policy will be shared with staff by means of Net Consent and the intranet (for those with access to computers) and in hard copy to staff without access to technology. The Policy will be sent via e mail to Elected Members. A series of face-to-face briefings will be delivered to promote the policy and to provide an overview of the Authority's role and responsibilities in the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 No significant financial implications identified.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Head of Finance

8 Legal and Governance Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications other than those set out in this report.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Shelley Hardy, Legal Executive

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

9.1 Equality requirements and considerations are contained within the policy and outlined further within the Initial Equality Analysis document found at appendix B.

10 Risk and Mitigation

10.1 This policy provides robust guidance and procedures for the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals within South Kesteven. The required training pathway for staff and Members ensures that everyone who has direct contact with our residents is aware of reporting procedures for when concerns are identified.

11 Community Safety Implications

11.1 Safety and the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals within our society is at the heart of this Policy. Its adoption and subsequent implementation will ensure the identification and reporting of such incidents are carried out in the most effective and expedient manner.

12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a 'climate emergency'?

12.1 Nothing of relevance identified when preparing this report.

13 Other Implications (where significant)

13.1 No other significant implications identified.

14 Background Papers

14.1 None

15 Appendices

15.1 Appendix A – Safeguarding Policy 2020-2023

15.2 Appendix B – Safeguarding Policy Equality Analysis

Report Timeline:	Date of Publication on Forward Plan (if required)	10 February 2020
	Previously Considered by: N/A	N/A
	Final Decision date	17 March 2020