

REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

REPORT NO. CEX381

DATE: 25 October 2007

TITLE:	CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	N/A
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	N/A
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	YES

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN SPENCER-GREGSON	
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	ALL	
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	YES	
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE VIA THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY LINK ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE WWW.SOUTHKESTEVEN.GOV.UK	
INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Carried out and appended to report? Yes	Full impact assessment required? No
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None.	

Recommendations

- 1. That the Council formally approve the Child Protection Policy as recommended by Cabinet and give delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to make minor changes thereto.**

Background

2. The Council is required, under the Children Act 2004, to make appropriate arrangements to ensure the protection and safeguarding of children and young people.

For an organisation with such a wide range of services which impact on children and young people in many different ways, the only robust means of discharging these obligations is to prepare and maintain a properly resourced Child Protection Policy.

3. At its meeting on the 1 October 2007 the Cabinet considered a draft of such a policy and appointed Councillor Mrs. Maureen Spencer-Gregson as the executive champion for Children and Young Persons. This Strategy is now being presented to Council for formal adoption.

Further Information

4. At County level, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board has been established as part of the wider development of the Children and Young Persons Agenda generally. As a consequence of this there is likely to be further minor changes to both definitions and contact arrangements and in order to ensure that the Council's policy remains contemporary, it is recommended that delegated authority be given to myself, in consultation with Councillor Spencer-Gregson, to make minor amendments.
5. The scope of the policy covers matters such as behavioural indications of abuse or harm, the arrangements for reporting suspicions to designated agencies, the handling of any complaint made regarding an officer or member of the Council and certain procedural matters which are ancillary to these objectives. The policy applies equally to Councillors, staff and Contractors.
6. A programme of Training has been requested from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board and will be provided both to all service managers and to those who work with children and young people on a regular basis.
7. Service Plan templates have also been adjusted to ensure that the needs of children and young people are taken into account in the planning of future service provision.

Duncan Kerr
Chief Executive