



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Governance and Audit Committee

Wednesday, 27 November 2024

Report of Councillor Rhea Rayside
Cabinet Member for People &
Communities

Safeguarding Annual Report 23/24

Report Author

Sarah McQueen, Head of Service (Housing Options)

✉ sarah.mcqueen@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

In accordance with Article 9 (Regulatory Framework – xxiii) of the Constitution, this report presents to the Governance and Audit Committee the Annual Report on Safeguarding. The report provides an overview of the Council's involvement in the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults for 2023/2024

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Note the content of this Safeguarding Annual Report 23/24**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	All

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no significant financial implications arising directly from this report, which is for noting.

Completed by: Paul Sutton Interim Head of Finance (Deputy s151)

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no significant legal or governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

- 1.3 Equality impact has been analysed as part of the development and implementation of the Safeguarding policy and its associated procedures. Issues of equality and the fair treatment of all individuals regardless of their diversity are addressed throughout these documents.

Completed by: Carol Drury, Community Engagement Manager

Safeguarding

- 1.4 This report provides an update on Safeguarding in line with our Constitution.

Completed by: Sarah McQueen, Head of Housing

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Safeguarding Annual Report 23/24 (attached at Appendix A) is provided to Members in accordance with the Regulatory Framework for the Governance and Audit Committee.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 The annual report attached at Appendix 1 provides details of the Council's safeguarding responsibilities. Details of the training and development provided to officers and elected Members is included along with information regarding the number of modules that have been completed during 2023/24. The report outlines the safeguarding interventions undertaken within the timeframe, including short case studies to provide a background to some of the interactions between residents and officers.
- 3.2 Section 5 of the report provides details of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Section 11 (Children Act 2004) Audit which the Council was required to complete in 2024. The Council passed the audit with 100% of the criteria being rated green.
- 3.3 As a District Council we have a general duty of care and statutory requirements in relation to the safeguarding of both children and adults. In general, our responsibilities are 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. The Safeguarding Annual Report reflects these duties and highlights how safeguarding is a Council-wide responsibility.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The report is for information and review

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. To note the Council's involvement in the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults for 2023/24, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Safeguarding Annual Report 2023/24