

**Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council**

**Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee – Update Report – February 2014**

**Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy**

- The Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) made up of representatives from the agencies and bodies which have regular contact with children or have responsibility for services to them (or their families) in the local area.
- As a statutory authority, providing services in the community to children and their families, the Borough Council is required to co-operate in the establishment and operation of the LCSB and is a member of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB), which became operational in April 2006. The Council also has a legal responsibility to safeguard, promote wellbeing and protect children and vulnerable adults.
- The Borough Council participates in the District Safeguarding Sub Group (for Children and Vulnerable Adults) and has co-ordinated the creation of a District Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy.
- The District Policy seeks to help protect all children and vulnerable adults living in our communities and to protect the Borough Council, its staff, elected members and volunteers.
- The Council's revised Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy 2014 was approved by Cabinet on the 5<sup>th</sup> February (please see attached for your information).
- The Council needs to ensure that it has robust mechanisms in place in order to appropriately co-ordinate Safeguarding activity in the Borough and an Action Plan has been created (please see attached) to introduce and embed the Policy and to disseminate information to staff, elected members and volunteers.
- In line with the legal responsibilities from Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, the Council has undertaken an audit to ensure that in discharging our functions we have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The audit assessment gave the Council the opportunity to highlight areas of strength and to identify areas for further development.
- The following individuals have been identified to champion Safeguarding within our organisation;
  - Portfolio Holder - Cllr Tony Kearon
  - Executive Manager - John Sellgren (Chief Executive)
  - Head of Service - Mark Bailey (Business Improvements and Partnerships)
  - Designated Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer - Sarah Moore (Partnerships Manager).
- As proposed in the Policy the Council are now seeking to identify volunteers to become 'Safeguarding Champions' in each service area (although we appreciate that in some services covering more than one location e.g. Leisure and Cultural, it may be appropriate to have more than one volunteer). They will assist the Designated and Deputy Designated Officers to ensure that all staff, elected

members and volunteers are trained appropriately to recognise safeguarding issues and know where to refer any concerns that may arise in relation to children and vulnerable adults in our communities.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended and requested that A&C Scrutiny Committee take on responsibility for monitoring delivery of the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy Action Plan 2014 and support Officers to disseminate the importance of the Policy throughout the Council for the benefit of our communities.

**Sarah Moore**  
**Partnerships Manager**  
**February 2014**