

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2017

Jan 2017



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	Agenda item No.
Safeguarding Annual Self-Assessment	Leader	Denise Johnson	7

Is this report a <b>KEY DECISION</b> (i.e. more than £75,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	<b>Yes</b>
Is this report on the <b>Cabinet Forward Plan</b> ?	<b>Yes</b>
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council?	<b>No</b>

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This covering report is to put before Cabinet the draft Children Act 2004 Section 11 Self-assessment 2017. Subject to recommendations the report will then be submitted to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:-

1. Note the draft South Ribble Borough Council Children Act 2004 Section 11 Self-Assessment. (attached in Appendix A) and consider amendments/recommendations
2. Subject to point 1 above Cabinet approve the Self-Assessment for submission to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (deadline of submission 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017).

### 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report relates to the following corporate priorities

Clean, green and safe	X	Strong and healthy communities	X
Strong South Ribble in the heart of prosperous Lancashire		Efficient, effective and exceptional council	X

## **4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

### **4.1 Rationale**

Since the Children Act duty was in place the Council has submitted an annual Children Act 2004 Section 11 Self-assessment to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board. Previously the self-assessment has not been reported to Members. By reporting the self-assessment and the subsequent action plan the process is transparent, strengthened and gains a wider ownership.

The Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board sets the template for the self-assessment and the minimum requirements.

The Self-Assessment is subject to a challenge by the Board. This challenge is usually every three years. However the Council had a challenge in 2014 and again in 2016 following a request by the Council.

The Self-Assessment is comprehensive and evidence to the statements within the assessment is embedded in the document. Although the template limits the reporting within each of the nine sections in the template to 200 words this is exceeded given the continuing interest in the Council on Safeguarding matters and to help give assurance of the depth and scope of the work undertaken.

The Cabinet Member with the responsibility for Safeguarding is the Leader. The importance of Safeguarding is recognised within the 2017 -2018 Corporate Plan. There is a Designated Safeguarding Officer Lead within the Council with a Deputy. There is an officer Safeguarding Champion Group covering each Directorate. The Group meets quarterly to review activities, share best practice, bring forward case studies and give advice on protocols across the Council. Recently, the invitation to the Group has been extended to the Business Manager of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board and her attendance has been very helpful.

### **4.2 Partnership.**

The Council is an important partner in the Lancashire Safeguarding network. It has links with the Police, Lancashire County Council and the Safeguarding Board. The Council holds records going back several years where it has reported alleged / potential safeguarding incidents to the Police and the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board via the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Where appropriate a Multi-Agency Safeguarding team is set up and the Council is part of the team. As well as investigations into specific cases of alleged safeguarding incidents, the Police and the Safeguarding Board have advised on Social Media content, media investigation and coverage, development of protocols, information sharing and support to specific services e.g. Licensing, Sports Development and Event Management. In July 2016 the Chair of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board gave a training session to Members on Safeguarding and last night the Deputy Chair supported the Council at the Scrutiny Committee where the self-assessment was considered and recommendations made.

As well as receiving support internally, the Council is also active in Lancashire. The Council's Designated Lead Officer has supported the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board in the multi-agency challenge of a neighbouring District Council's self-assessment.

As mentioned above there is a close working relationship with the Safeguarding Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). This post sits at County. Regular meetings take place. The role of the officer is to receive referrals from Borough Councils, other agencies and individuals. On receiving a referral the LADO then ensures all relevant agencies are informed. The activities are monitored and reported back. These agencies include the Police, Lancashire County Council and the Safeguarding Board.

Since 2014 there have been 31 referrals made by the Borough Council's Safeguarding Lead to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards. These referrals are both from Members and officers.

### 4.3 Training

The level of Safeguarding Training is monitored by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board. The Council must submit annual figures to the Board. The Board sets the target for training. The Council has exceeded the target requirements for the Levels required of them ie Levels 1 and 2.

The table below shows the figures for Levels 1 and 2 since 2014.

Level of Training	Number of staff who need this level of training	The number of these staff who have been trained to this level	% of these staff who have been trained to this level
1	204	199	97.55%
2	79	74	93.67%
6	2	2	100%

Employees have to undertake mandatory e-learning training on MILO (My Interactive Learning Online) in Safeguarding Children, Safeguarding Adults, Child Sexual Exploitation and Prevent, which is monitored by the HR Team

Currently the Council has 285 employees which have undertaken the following training:-

Safeguarding Children	280	98.25%
Safeguarding Adults	241	84.56%
Child Sexual Exploitation	274	96.14%
Prevent	263	92.28%

In addition to Safeguarding training for officers, Members have been offered Safeguarding since 2012. The last training session was a Learning Hour on 13 July 2016.

The figures for Members trained are below. Safeguarding training will again be offered to Members in 2017.

Level of Training	Number of members who need this level of training	The number of members who have been trained to this level	% of members trained to this level
1	49	38	77.5%

Members were also invited in November 2016 to attend drop in sessions, where there was a short demonstration and help to log onto MILO (My Interactive Learning Online). More drop in sessions are planned for Spring 2017.

In addition more specific safeguarding training has been provided to Members of the General Licensing Committee.

- Training for the Committee took place in 10 June 2014, with a follow up session on 22 July 2014, for those unable to attend.
- Training for the Committee took place in 04 June 2015, with a follow up session on 09 June 2015, for those unable to attend.
- At the training references were made to the Casey Report, with the report sent to Committee Members the following day.
- A report from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office regarding Taxi Licensing and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was also sent to members.
- 21 July 2015, 5.30-6.00pm Briefing session re: CSE before the General Licensing Committee (GLC) - Tony Baxter was the trainer from Lancashire Police. Details including the circulation of LGA Taxi and PHV Licensing Councillors' Handbook.
- 27 October 2015 follow up session for those unable to attend 04 June 2015 session.
- 14 June 2016 Training Session 5.00-6.00 pm on Safeguarding with Tony Baxter from Lancashire Police
- 13 July 2016 Learning Hour on Safeguarding 6.00 – 8.00 pm with Jane Booth, the Independent Chair of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board, and Phil Threlfall, an Independent Trainer & Consultant in Safeguarding.

The latest training was a regional event held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 which was offered to all General Licensing Committee members.

#### **4.4 Policy**

The Council has had a Children and Young Peoples Safeguarding Policy since 2010. This has been regularly updated. The most recent update being 2016 and the time before that 2014. The Policy states responsibilities, how to make a referral, the role of Partners, the support available across Lancashire, and information sharing multi agency groups.

#### **4.5 Action Plan**

Although not a requirement of the Self-Assessment the Council also develops and implements an Action Plan. This results from gaps in services, changes to partner arrangements, changes to legislation and learning best practice. The findings of the Scrutiny Committee and this Cabinet meeting will feed into the 2017 action plan. It is intended that a six monthly update on the Action Plan is reported to Scrutiny.

### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None – this is a self-assessment the council has to complete and submit.

### **6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION**

#### **6.1 Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

This report's recommendations are for Cabinet Members to note the contents of a draft self - assessment for submission. Therefore there are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations within the report. Any further actions required therefore that require additional costs with the approved budget will need to be re-submitted to Cabinet after consultation with the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer).

## 6.2 Comments of the Monitoring Officer

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on the council to ensure that its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Further the council is under a duty to consider any relevant statutory guidance.

By reporting the matter to Cabinet we are seeking to act in as open and transparent a manner as possible. We recognise the need to demonstrate to the public and partners alike that we have robust arrangements and practices in place for dealing with safeguarding concerns.

<p><b>Other implications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Risk</b></li>          <li>• <b>Equality</b></li>          <li>• <b>HR</b></li></ul>	<p>The Council's reputation has been severely damaged with the allegations of Child Sexual Exploitation during the past 12 months. All allegations have been investigated by the Lancashire Safeguarding Multi Agency team.</p> <p>To manage risk it is essential that any safeguarding concerns are reported to the Council's Lead Designated Officer as per the Council's Policy. This applies to officers and Members of the Council. Failure to do so may compromise public safety. Where public safety may be compromised the Council does, and will, report incidents to the Police and the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board. Both agencies are part of the Lancashire Safeguarding Multi Agency team.</p> <p>The Council's Safeguarding Policy states how the Council seeks to protect some of our most vulnerable residents. In addition Safeguarding is considered in the Council's Equality Impact Assessment process.</p> <p>Safeguarding training is mandatory for officers. The 2017/8 action plan will include Safeguarding training for all Members.</p>
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## 7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Appendix A – South Ribble Section 11 Safeguarding Self-Assessment

Appendix B – Letter from the Lancashire Safeguarding Board following the 2016 challenge.