

# *Scrutiny Committee – Safeguarding Self Assessment*



14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Lead Member:**            **Leader**  
**Lead Officer:**         **Denise Johnson, Designated**  
**Safeguarding Lead, South Ribble Borough Council**

## **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 Scrutiny the draft Children Act 2004 Section 11 Self-assessment 2017. Subject to Scrutiny recommendations and Cabinet recommendations and approval the report will then be submitted to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

## **DETAILS AND REASONING**

### **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.

### **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.

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.

### **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.

<b>Level of Training</b>	<b>Number of staff who need this level of training</b>	<b>The number of these staff who have been trained to this level</b>	<b>% of these staff who have been trained to this level</b>
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. This is identified below.

- 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.
- 21 July 2015 - 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.

## 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.

The Council is aware of allegations of Child Sexual Exploitation during the past 12 months. All allegations have been investigated by the Lancashire Safeguarding Multi Agency team. 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.

## **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.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Appendix A – South Ribble Section 11 Safeguarding Self Assessment

Appendix B – Letter for the Chair of the Lancashire Safeguarding Board following the 2016 challenge.