

REPORT TO	ON
Scrutiny Committee	27 November 2017

September 2017



TITLE	REPORT OF
Safeguarding - 6 month update	Director of Development, Enterprise and Communities Council Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer

Is this report confidential?	No
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

At the 14th March 2017 Scrutiny Committee a recommendation was made that a 6 monthly update be reported on Safeguarding activities. The report outlines activities to the end of September 2017 and references the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee in March 2017.

This links with the Corporate Priority Clean, Green and Safe.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Scrutiny Committee note

1. the actions taken since the reporting of the Section 11 Children Act 2004 self-assessment to the Lancashire Safeguarding Board.
2. Make recommendations they would like considering ahead of the drafting and submission of the 2018/2019 self-assessment in March 2018.

3. BACKGROUND

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.

4. DETAILS AND REASONING

Every year the Council has submitted a Children Act 2004 Section 11 self-assessment to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board.

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

Last year the Scrutiny Committee considered a draft self-Assessment and made recommendations to Cabinet prior to the submission to the Lancashire Safeguarding Board. It is intended the process will be the same for next year's annual submission.

The Scrutiny Committee recommendations are set out below :-

- 1.the report and self-assessment being presented to the Scrutiny Committee be welcomed.

2. Safeguarding Training be made mandatory for elected members.
3. the Council be asked to look into making Safeguarding Training via MILO available to Parish and Town Councils.
4. the committee be provided with anonymised case studies of where sharing of information protocols have been used.
5. the Members Code of Conduct is reviewed to ensure safeguarding is effectively included.
6. details of the Council's Employee Safeguarding Champions be made available to members.
7. the committee welcomes the reassurance provided by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board on the Council's safeguarding arrangements.
8. the committee reviews the safeguarding referral process.
9. six months review of progress be presented to the Scrutiny Committee.
10. Safeguarding Training takes place on an annual basis.

The report also has two appendices

Appendix A - the Lancashire Safeguarding Board's feedback on the Council's self-assessment

Appendix B - an Action Plan to further strengthen our Safeguarding Arrangements with up to date information on progress.

General Information on Activities so far this year.

Training

Training was the subject of a number of the Scrutiny Committees recommendations.

Safeguarding training is mandatory for officers. As well as the MILO on line training which is undertaken, in June the "AFTA Thought" Training Consultancy provided a half day training course for officers. This took the form of actors acting out 6 different safeguarding scenarios with learning from each one. The sessions were extremely well attended and the feedback very positive.

A Safeguarding activity programme has been designed this year and this aims to keep officers aware of Safeguarding when undertaking duties.

In line with the recommendation for Parish and Town Council training the information has been provided on how they can assess the online training.

Regarding Member training, at the Scrutiny Committee meeting in March it was reported that Members would be encouraged to undertake the training. This will require Members to be enabled to access the MILO training package. Training sessions have been provided to access this information. Further training will be provided later this year.

It is noted in the self-assessment submitted to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board the Council rated itself as Green in compliance of the training section. The feedback by the Lancashire Safeguarding Board is that the Council is Amber rated as 100% of officers were not trained. The Council has reported back to the Board that the only officers not trained were those on long term sickness or maternity leave. This was noted by the Board and on file for the next self-assessment.

Documentation review

Safeguarding has been considered in document reviews including codes of conduct. Advice has been received from the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board on newly introduced social media protocols. The Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed to ensure that the Policy remains in line with best practice and in changes to partner arrangements.

Referrals

The Council continues to make Children and Young People Safeguarding referrals to the appropriate agencies. Since April this year until the end of September six referrals have been made. These cover homelessness and taxi licensing. This compares to the same time last year of twelve referrals the majority of allegations re taxi drivers but also included dangerous dogs and offensive behaviour.

Safeguarding Champions meetings

The officer Safeguarding Champions continue to meet on a quarterly basis and are now supported by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager. Agenda items include case referrals review, procedure updates, partnership work and review and implementation of the Safeguarding Action Plan. (Appendix B). The list of the Champions has been provided to Members as per the recommendations above.

Lancashire Safeguarding Board

The Council continues to work closely with the Safeguarding Board to ensure processes and procedures remain robust and best practice is learned and acted upon.

In October (although just outside of the timescale of activities covered by this report) the Council hosted a District Council Safeguarding event. This was led by the Lancashire Safeguarding Chair and the District Chief Executive Lead. The event was attended by all Lancashire District Councils. The purpose of the day was to share best practice and receive feedback on the Self Assessments reported to the Board. The event was very useful.

The feedback by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board on the self-assessment is covered in Appendix A and outlined below.

1. The Council rated its activities as Green for Section 1 but was rated Amber by the Safeguarding Children Board. This was because no reference was made in the self-assessment to Serious Case Reviews. Serious Case Reviews are held across agencies when incidents (defined in law) occur that require a case review. Members should note no Serious Case Reviews have been held for incidents in South Ribble in the period covered. However it will refer to this in future Self Assessments if there is an incident in South Ribble or indeed lessons learned from case reviews in other authorities.
2. The Council rated its activities as Green for Training. Please note the comments above in the training section.
3. Under the Supervision section the Council rated itself as Green while the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Amber rated the activity due to staff supervision not meeting the guidance standards which mainly refer to County Council services. The Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board has been contacted asking for guidance on what District Council supervision should be. A reply is awaited. Once received this will feed into our processes and the action plan.
4. Under Interagency Working the Council rated itself Amber and this was also rated Amber by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board for Early Help Support. Again the Lancashire Safeguarding Board has been contacted and asked what is expected from a District Council perspective. The reply is awaited and will feed into processes and the action plan.

Action Plan. (Appendix B)

The Action Plan 2017/2018 progress is covered in the attached document. All actions that should have been progressed have been progressed.

5. WIDER IMPLICATIONS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

5.1 Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Comments of the Monitoring Officer

Clearly the council must continue to give top priority to complying with all of its safeguarding duties. These concerns should be at the heart of what we do.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The 2016/2017 self-assessment document (reported to the Scrutiny Committee in March 2017).

Appendix A – The Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Feedback on the self-assessment
Appendix B – Action Plan.