

10

COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE REF NO: E/09/70
DATE: 15 DECEMBER 2009
SUBJECT: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND GUIDELINES – REVIEW OF POLICY
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR NADIA CENCI
DIRECTOR: JONATHAN OWEN

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report describes the implementation of arrangements for Safeguarding Children and Young People following the approval of the policy in 2006.

It asks Executive to approve revisions to the policy which have been proposed to ensure IBC continues to meet its obligations under the Children Act 2004.

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees
Safeguarding Steering Group
Safeguarding Good Practice Network
Directors
Operational managers
HR Operations Manager
Trades Unions
Portfolio Holder

external consultees
Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board

The following policies form a context to this report:

(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Transforming Ipswich

This report **is /is not** a key decision included in the Forward Plan

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information –

None

OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

1. Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2006
www.dcsf.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00060
2. Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004, DfES
Publications ref 0036 2007DOM-EN
3. IBC Internal Audit Report re:- Safeguarding Children, 2009

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Safeguarding Children and Young People policy was approved by Executive in 2006.
- 1.2 The policy enables IBC to fulfill its statutory obligations under the Children Act 2004 by establishing effective arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 1.3 The features of effective arrangements under the Children Act 2004 are:
- senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare
 - a clear statement of the agency's responsibilities towards children available for all staff
 - a clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
 - service development that takes account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children
 - staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or in contact with children and families
 - safe recruitment procedures in place
 - effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
 - effective information sharing.
- 1.4 An internal audit of IBC arrangements for safeguarding (March 2009) confirmed that these were effective and also recommended:
- that the annual review of the Safeguarding Policy is now carried out and the opportunity taken to include reference to partners/contractors, service planning and work planning.*
- 1.5 This review has also taken account of changes in other policies since 2006 and refinements to the referral process.

2. Background

- 2.1 Since the Safeguarding Children and Young People policy was introduced in 2006 all the required arrangements have been established and have been seen by the audit report to be working well.
- 2.2 These arrangements include:
- Corporate Safeguarding Action Plan
Safeguarding Steering Group, with Portfolio Holder
Safeguarding Good Practice Network
Formal referral process

Training
 Head of Service Action Plans
 Support from Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board

2.3 The current policy allows for separate referral processes for Sports and West Villa. IBC arrangements are now sufficiently well developed to allow Sports to follow the corporate referral process; West Villa will maintain a system of direct contact with Social Care Services due to the nature of their work.

2.4 Revisions to the policy are:

1.4	Clarification of the scope of the policy to include partners and contractors
1.5	The inclusion of a flow diagram to demonstrate the framework for safeguarding
2.2	Inclusion of the need to cooperate with Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board in dealing with any referrals
2.6	The inclusion of the requirement to include safeguarding issues in service plans and operational plans
3	Updated reference to the ICT Policy
9	Improvements to the referral process
10	Updated reference to the Disciplinary Policy
12	Addition of guidance in relation to Work Experience
Guidance 4.1	Improved information to staff
Guidance 5	Addition of checklist for councillors

3. Policy Context

3.1 This policy supports Transforming Ipswich in that early identification of children and young people in need will enhance their health and well being thus contributing to promoting community safety and social cohesion.

3.2 This policy demonstrates IBC's arrangements for safeguarding, as required under the Children Act 2004.

4. Performance Monitoring

- 4.1 The Safeguarding Steering Group maintains an overview of performance through the Safeguarding Action Plan which is updated each quarter.
- 4.2 Regular internal and external audits are used to provide assurance that systems are working as intended.
- 4.3 Heads of Service are accountable for embedding safeguarding in all policies, identifying training needs and including safeguarding considerations in service plans.

5. Risk Management

Risk ID	Consequence	Controls	Likelihood	Impact	Actions
That the council fails to protect a vulnerable child and is judged to be negligent	Legal action. Damage to organisational reputation. Disruption to team work and service provision.	Robust policy and training	E - very low	1 - critical	Approve policy and continue with existing programme of training
That SSCB increase the annual contribution	Difficulty in meeting costs or reduction in support and training made available	Clear agreements	C - significant	3 - marginal	Plan requirements with SSCB and budget for anticipated increases

6. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 6.1 No impact on the environment has been detected.

7. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 7.1 Equality Impact assessments are part of the legal duties set out in the Race Relations Amendment Act and are also included under the new Disability Equality duty and Gender Equality duty. An Impact Assessment is a proactive step to ensure wherever possible preventative measures are taken to avoid discrimination or unfairness on any grounds before it occurs.
- 7.2 An Equality Impact Screening was undertaken to assess if this review, including how it is delivered or implemented, could result in less favourable

treatment of some groups, and how this could be mitigated. It was found that the policy had a positive impact on vulnerable children in promoting their well being and potential to thrive in adulthood. No adverse impact was identified.

8. Financial Considerations

- 8.1 Borough and district councils currently pay £10,000 per annum to Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board to be members of the network and to receive training. Suffolk County Council are currently reviewing this arrangement.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 That revisions to the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy are approved.**

Reason: * to ensure IBC continues to meet its obligations under the Children Act 2004