

FOR: EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

29<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Agenda Item 5

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REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER

LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY 2009/10

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Employment Committee of Lichfield District Council's statutory requirements relating to the Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy 2009/10.
- 1.2 To provide the Employment Committee with Lichfield District Council's Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy **Appendix A** and Action Plan 2009/10, **Appendix B**.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Employment Committee endorses the report.

3. BACKGROUND

**Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy 2009/2010**

- 3.1 The Children's Act 1989 gave every child the right to protection from abuse and exploitation and the right to inquiries to safeguard their welfare.
- 3.2 This was followed by the Protection of Children Act in 1999 which aimed to prevent paedophiles from working with children and required childcare organisations in England and Wales to inform the Department of Health about anyone known to them who is suspected of harming children and putting them at risk.
- 3.3 In 2003, Lord Laming published his report into the death of child abuse victim Victoria Climbié, which found that health, police and social services missed 12 opportunities to save her life. In the same year, the government's green paper "Every Child Matters (ECM)" was published and proposed an electronic tracking system for England's children; 150 Children's Trusts to be set up by 2006, amalgamating health, education and social services; a Children's Director to oversee local services; statutory local Safeguarding Children Boards to replace the ACPCs (Area Child Protection Committees) and to appoint a Children's Commissioner for England.

3. The District Council's Policy for the protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults seeks to fulfil the Council's responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004, as well as a raft of other legislation in this area, and in particular:

*"The passing of the Children's Bill places a Duty on key statutory agencies to discharge their normal functions having regards to the need to Safeguarding and promote the welfare of children. They must also ensure the same approach is followed by any other body providing services on their behalf".*

- 3.5 An Executive Summary of the Policy is attached at **APPENDIX A** and the Action Plan setting out the Council's key areas for development to ensure we meet statutory agency requirements of the Children Act 2004 is attached at **APPENDIX B**.

#### **4. ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 There are no alternative options as Lichfield District Council has a statutory obligation to comply under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 In an endeavour to ensure best practice, three neighbouring districts councils have been consulted. Consultation has also taken place with the Lichfield District Council Managers' Forum, Employee Liaison Group and Leadership Team in Spring/Summer 09. The views of the managers of Leisure Services, Play Services, the Lichfield Garrick and the Personnel Service have been sought, with particular regard to the practicalities of implementation.

#### **6. STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Policy will be refreshed on an annual basis to reflect any new legislation. The policy supports the Strategic Plan priority to improve people's health and well being and the action to deliver early intervention to better address child welfare.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The implementation of this policy will include a comprehensive review of all posts within the authority, to identify which of these require CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) checks, and at what level of clearance. CRB applications will then be made for existing staff, and will be repeated annually. CRB clearances will also be obtained for new staff, where the post requires this. An amount (£15k) has already been identified to support this process.
- 7.2 Staff training will be provided through the Staffordshire Safeguarding Board, at no cost over and above the District Council's existing annual contribution.

#### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

- 8.1 Lichfield District Council's Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy 2009/10 conforms to Human Rights legislation.

## 9. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

9.1 The risks associated with not adopting the Policy are show below.

Risk No	Description of Risk	Impact (Low, Medium, Significant and High)	Likelihood (Low, Medium, Significant and High)	Status	Countermeasures
1	Failure to implement the Action Plan	H	M		Clear timescales and actions and regular monitoring of the Plan in accordance with the targets set  Good communication regarding the requirements and need for improvement