

24 March 2015

Ordinary Council

Assignment of Strategic Safeguarding Lead and Member Champion

Report of: *Graham Farrant – Chief Executive*

Wards Affected: *All Wards*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the 17 December 2014 Community Committee meeting, Members considered a report on Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- 1.2 The recommendations included in the report were resolved unanimously by the Committee and for one of these agreement was needed by Full Council, as follows:

3. Members recommend that the Strategic Safeguarding Lead be assigned to the (Acting) Chief Executive and the Safeguarding Member Champion be allocated to the Leader of the Council, to be agreed at Ordinary Council.

2. Recommendation

That the Council's Strategic Safeguarding Lead be assigned to the Chief Executive and the Safeguarding Member Champion be allocated to the Leader of the Council.

3. Introduction and Background

A report entitled 'Safeguarding Policy and Procedures' was considered by the Community Committee on 17 December 2014 when Members were reminded that Brentwood Borough Council had a duty to comply with Section 10 and 11 of the Children's Act 2004 (and by implication sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act), and as part of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) procedures to work together to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Council also had guidance from the Department of Health 'No Secret: Guidance on developing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse', 2000.

Members noted that the Council had undertaken a number of self audits for both Children and Young People and Adults which had informed the

Council's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. The outcome from the 2013 audit identified some areas of improvement, especially around some new emerging issues such as Domestic Violence; Honour Based Abuse and Female Genital Mutilation; Child Sexual Exploitation and Counter Terrorism.

Due to the number of new and emerging issues the Council's own Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and Safeguarding Action Plan had been reviewed and revised for Member approval.

The recommendations in the report were resolved unanimously as follows, that:

1. Members agree to the revised Safeguarding Policy and Procedures appended to the report.
2. Members agree that Officers will implement the Safeguarding Action Plan 2015/16.
3. Members recommend that the Strategic Safeguarding Lead be assigned to the (Acting) Chief Executive and the Safeguarding Member Champion be allocated to the Leader of the Council, to be agreed at Ordinary Council.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The Council had undertaken a number of self audits for both Children and Young People and Adults which had informed the Council's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. The outcome from the 2013 audit identified some areas of improvement and the resolution of the Community Committee addressed these.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To assign a Strategic Lead and Member Champion for the Council's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The Community Committee had considered the report and the agenda had been publicly available.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 Safeguarding covers a number of Corporate priorities but especially Housing, Health and Wellbeing – make sure that the more vulnerable residents in Brentwood are protected, and help goes to those most in need of it; Safe Borough – promote Brentwood as a safe place to live and celebrate our success; promote crime awareness and vigilance across Brentwood residents.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Chris Leslie – Financial Services Manager and Section 151 Officer

Tel & Email 01277 312542/Christopher.leslie@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.1 There are no further financial implications at this time.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Chris Potter – Monitoring Officer and Head of Support Services

Tel & Email 01277 312860/Christopher.potter@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.2 Brentwood Borough Council has a duty to comply with Section 10 and 11 of the Children's Act 2004 (and by implications sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act), and as part of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) procedures to work together to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Council also has guidance from the Department of Health 'No Secret: Guidance on developing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse', 2000.

All other legal implications are set out within the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.

Other Implications (where significant)

Equality and Diversity implications

- 8.3 The Safeguarding Policy and Procedures sets out the Council's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures which covers the whole community, but in particular children, young people and vulnerable adults. Within the Policy there are a number of emerging issues which may affect some sections of the community more than others such as Honour Based Abuse and FGM.

Risk Management implications

- 8.4 The Council needs to ensure that staff, contractors, volunteers and Members are aware of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and adhere to safe working practices. Any procurement or contracting of services which relate to children, young people or vulnerable adults must ensure that they must evidence that they have robust safeguarding policies in place.

9. **Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 None.

10. Appendices to this report

- Appendix A – Report and appendices
- included in the agenda for the 17.12.14 Community Committee meeting.

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