



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND COMMUNITIES**

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**to  
COUNCIL  
11 DECEMBER 2025**

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY - CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 That Members approve the Safeguarding Policy: Children, Young People and Adults Policy attached at **APPENDIX A**.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) That the updated Safeguarding Policy at **APPENDIX A** be adopted;
- (ii) That the Safeguarding Lead provides an annual safeguarding report to the Senior Leadership Team to support oversight and continuous improvement;

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 Safeguarding of Children, Young People and vulnerable Adults is everyone's business, with the statutory responsibilities for organisations set out in the Care Act 2014( i), and the Children's Act 2004. (ii)
- 3.2 Under this legislation Essex County Council is the Statutory Lead organisation for Safeguarding as it is both the Childrens Services Authority and the Social Care Authority. It has responsibility for making enquiries into allegations of abuse and neglect, and taking action to protect Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.
- 3.3 Maldon District Council's role as a second tier Local Authority has a statutory responsibility and a duty of care, which in the simplest of terms means it has a duty to cooperate and report issues relating to Safeguarding to the appropriate authorities The Council's key responsibilities are to ensure that:
- staff, Members, Volunteers and Contractors are aware of its safeguarding responsibilities relating to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults when delivering services.
  - the Council's procurement and recruitment processes reflect those responsibilities.
  - staff are trained to identify any safeguarding concerns.
  - a clear process exists to refer concerns to Essex County Council.
  - when requested to do so the Council works with Essex County Council and other partners (duty to co-operate) through a multiagency approach as set out in the statutory working together Guidance (iii)

- 3.4 The Council's Safeguarding Policy at **APPENDIX A** provides a comprehensive framework for delivering our safeguarding responsibilities, embedding principles of safeguarding across all Council services.
- 3.5 The Policy defines reporting structures, governance, and safe working practices and aligns with guidance from the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) and Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB). It also aligns with the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures and (SET) Safeguarding Adult Guidelines.
- 3.6 The Policy is a refreshed and rewritten version, replacing the 2020 Policy. It includes updated appendices covering training requirements, safer recruitment procedures, reporting pathways, and specific safeguarding areas such as Prevent, Modern Slavery, and Domestic Abuse.
- 3.7 Key updates include:
- clarified roles and responsibilities, including Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officers (DSROs) and the Safeguarding Review Board.
  - updated training levels and refresh requirements (Levels 1–4).
  - revised internal reporting procedures and flowchart (via FreshService).
  - expanded guidance on specific safeguarding risks including Child Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Modern Slavery, and Honour-Based Abuse.
  - compliance monitoring through the Maldon Safeguarding Review Board.
- 3.8 During 2025 in person training has been delivered to the Council's frontline staff who most frequently come into contact with the public, with e-learning training for all other staff. Awareness sessions for Councillors will be held for all Members by the end of March 2026.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Having an up-to-date Policy, underpinned by robust processes and training supports the Council is meeting its statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding Children, and Vulnerable Adults.
- 4.2 The policy will be fully reviewed every three years, and updated following any changes to roles and responsibilities or changes in legislation and guidance

## **5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028**

### **5.1 Supporting our communities**

- 5.1.1 A robust safeguarding approach, supported by multiagency working ensures that we are able to support the Community and importantly meet the Council's responsibilities relating to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

### **5.2 Delivering good quality services**

- 5.2.1 A strong safeguarding approach, underpinned by a robust policy is embedded within the Council's services, including our recruitment and procurement. This ensures we

are able to provide quality services that safeguard Children, Young People and vulnerable Adults.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Service users, particularly children, young people, and adults with care and support needs, will benefit from strengthened safeguarding processes, greater clarity in reporting pathways, and improved multi-agency working. The Policy enhances public confidence in the Council's commitment to protection and welfare.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The Policy upholds principles of equity and affirms the Council's duty to safeguard all individuals, irrespective of protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. It ensures that vulnerable children and adults receive fair and proportionate support. No adverse impacts on equality have been identified.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – An up-to-date Policy supported by robust procedures and staff training significantly increases awareness of safeguarding, what to look out for and how report concerns, thereby decreasing the associated risks to the public and service users.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – None.

### Background Papers:

- (i) [Care Act 2014](#)
- (ii) [Children Act 2004](#)
- (iii) [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)

### Enquiries to:

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