

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	6 March 2019
OFFICER	Lynne Swift, Director of People and Organisational Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Steven Lambert
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	The Authority's Safeguarding Policy Statement
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014 set out the statutory responsibilities for the promotion and safeguarding of the welfare of children; and of the promotion and safeguarding of the wellbeing of vulnerable adults respectively.</p> <p>As detailed in the Authority's Prevention Strategy 2018 / 2023, as a combined fire and rescue authority, these Acts do not place these statutory duties on Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA). However, we see safeguarding as an essential tool and will ensure that all personnel understand their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our communities. Creating a strong multi-agency framework for safeguarding, enabling access to mainstream community safety measures and clarifying the interface between safeguarding and quality of service provision.</p> <p>BMKFA is represented on Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Boards, overseeing both Adults and Children.</p> <p>Under the umbrella of the Prevention Strategy, the Safeguarding Policy Statement confirms the Authority's commitment to ensuring that everyone has the right to live their life free from abuse and neglect – regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy or maternity, and reducing the risk from Radicalisation, through identifying and referring vulnerable children and adults at risk, in line with the Government's CONTEST Strategy to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.</p> <p>This Policy Statement is underpinned by a robust and refreshed Procedure note, which provides detailed guidance to all staff, reflects the most up to date legislation, reporting pathways and ensures that our</p>

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	<p>practices are compliant with (GDPR).</p> <p>Internal processes have been updated to improve monitoring and reporting on safeguarding activity and to ensure that feedback is gained following concerns being raised and where appropriate shared with the individual(s) raising that concern.</p>
ACTION	Decision
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the new Safeguarding Policy Statement be approved.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>We will maintain a clear Safeguarding Policy Statement and Safeguarding Procedure note, ensuring relevant training for each level of staff, including e-learning, face to face and Continued Professional Development (CPD) workshops.</p> <p>We will support front line staff in identifying safeguarding concerns and making referrals, maintaining effective internal recording mechanisms, complying with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and ensuring that all records kept are accounted for on the Records Retention and Disposal Schedule.</p> <p>We financially support both Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Safeguarding Boards for adults and children and continue to be represented at Safeguarding Board meetings and wider subgroups as required.</p> <p>We will participate in Risk Assessment Multi-agency Panels (RAMP) and attend Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) where appropriate.</p> <p>As required, we will take part in Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Individual Management Reviews (IMRs) or Serious Case Reviews (SCRs).</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Boards receive the majority of their funding from the three statutory Board members; Thames Valley Police (TVP) the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Additional funding support is provided by non-statutory Board members, such as the probation service and the fire service.</p> <p>BMKFA contributed £2150 to these boards in 2018 / 19, these amounts are similar to those paid over previous years.</p> <p>All safeguarding activities will be delivered within the current financial envelop, with continued support for both Boards forecast within the current operating budget.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	Unlike the CCG, TVP and Local Authority, at this time there are no common law or statutory duties placed

	<p>on BMKFA in respect of vulnerable children or adults at risk.</p> <p>However, through the nature of our public facing prevention and protection activities and emergency response, our staff are likely to come in to contact with vulnerable members of the community.</p> <p>By following the Safeguarding Procedure, staff will be assured that they are following best practice and complying with any relevant legislation.</p>
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	Keeping people safe cannot be done in isolation, therefore we work with partner agencies at multiple levels to ensure that safeguarding activity is delivered to who requires it, when they require it, where it is required, accessing the most appropriate support from the requisite agencies.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	Safeguarding involves all members of staff and there are occasions when the environment or conditions that staff are exposed to, may leave a lasting psychological effect. Support is in place for all staff groups through Occupational Health, Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), Mental Health First Aiders and Critical Incident Stress Debriefs (CISD).
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	The Integrated Impact Assessment has considered the effects of this Policy Statement and Procedure note on all external and internal groups. Any negative impacts identified have been considered against and balanced with the overall positive effects of safeguarding in relation to external individuals and Authority employees.
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>The Policy Statement has been developed to set out the Authority's commitment to; preventing the abuse of vulnerable children and adults at risk, reporting concerns of abuse and being proactive in its work with other agencies to stop abuse occurring within the umbrella of safeguarding.</p> <p>Consultation has been focussed internally within the Leadership Group and Representative bodies.</p> <p>We have worked with our partners to ensure that our procedures and reporting pathways are up to date and reflect best practice.</p> <p>Developing the role of the Prevention Policy Manager, from an operational to a non-operational role, (Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager) has not only delivered financial savings, but has created capacity within the new role to provide a greater focus and oversight on safeguarding and develop partnerships further. Integral to this is ensuring that we receive feedback on safeguarding referrals that are made, allowing us to review and evaluate our</p>

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	procedures and processes, and securing a route for escalation when necessary.
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	The Authority's Prevention Strategy 2018 / 2023 <u>The Authority's Prevention Strategy</u>
APPENDICES	Annex A The Authority's Safeguarding Policy Statement
TIME REQUIRED	10 minutes
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Phill Mould <u>pmould@bucksfire.gov.uk</u> 07786 747712