

SUBJECT:	<i>Children and Young People and Vulnerable Person Safeguarding Policies</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Councillor Graham Harris - Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Community</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt- Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the safeguarding policies for vulnerable persons, and for children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To adopt the current Buckinghamshire Multi- agency policy and procedures for safeguarding vulnerable adults. Appendix 1 available via:
http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.co.uk/media/1031847/pandp_21june2013_p.pdf
- 1.2 To endorse and adopt the joint Chiltern and South Bucks Child Protection Policy (Appendix 2).
- 1.3 To delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to adopt revisions to the Buckinghamshire Multi- agency policy and procedures and the Chiltern and South Bucks Child Protection Policy following legislative changes or decisions by either the adult or children and young people Safeguarding Boards

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 A recent review of safeguarding procedures highlighted the need to update the existing safeguarding policies operating in both Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils to reflect recent changes to legislation and to provide guidance to staff on the Councils roles and responsibilities in this area.
- 2.2 This report requests:
 - That both Councils adopt the Buckinghamshire Multi- agency policy and procedures for safeguarding vulnerable adults.
 - That both Councils adopt the joint Chiltern and South Bucks Child Protection Policy

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The OFSTEAD report on Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Childrens Board (BSCB) sought to ensure that the leadership role of the BSCB in safeguarding is clearly established across Buckinghamshire, and that governance arrangements within the Board and with other key strategic bodies are effective in identifying and prioritising work to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.
- 3.2 Both Councils are partners on the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Childrens Board (BSCB) and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) and whilst not delivering services directly to young people the councils supports and facilitates services used by young people. Both councils directly deliver services to vulnerable adults through the provision of; welfare advice, housing, and environmental health.
- 3.3 Front line staff across both councils are also some of the eyes and ears within a community that are able to identify safeguarding concerns involving children, young people and vulnerable persons and staff have a duty to report any concerns.
- 3.4 The Councils Safeguarding responsibilities include reporting abuse, neglect, trafficking, radicalisation, and exploitation and closely link to the Councils responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder legislation.
- 3.5 Both the Buckinghamshire Multi- agency and the joint Chiltern and South Bucks Child Protection Policies provide clear guidance as to the standards of governance, training, reporting and assistance required to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable persons.

4. Content of Report

- 1.4 Local authorities have specific safeguarding duties and responsibilities under the terms of The [Care Act 2014](#) and the Children Act 1989 and 2004. Including supporting the work of the safeguarding boards and ensuring that the services they provide protect children and young people and vulnerable persons from harm.
- 4.1 The safeguarding boards have the responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the Local Authority and board partners individually and collectively to safeguard adults and children at risk of abuse and advise them on ways to improve.
- 4.2 To assist board partners work in partnership to safeguard individuals the boards have provided guidance, training materials and reporting tools.
- 4.3 Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults board has produced a multi-agency policy and procedures for safeguarding adults across Buckinghamshire. Board partners are asked to adopt and embed this policy which is being refreshed in 2015 to reflect the changes in legislation. The refreshed policy is currently awaiting formal sign off by the BSAB.
- 4.4 As the councils are not providing services directly to children and young people the Joint Chiltern and South Bucks Child Protection policy has been written to reflect

the roles of the district councils and to identify the training and reporting structures required.

4.5 Following adoption of both policies staff and members will receive refresher training on how to identify safeguarding concerns, the duty to report and opportunities to mainstream the safeguarding responsibility in to their everyday activity.

4.6 An officer safeguarding group will be established to identify and keep divisions aware of the outcomes of serious case reviews, share information and identify measures the councils can put in place to improve safeguarding.

5 Consultation

Not Applicable

6 Options

Members could decide not to adopt both policies

7. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

3.1 Financial- both council currently contribute £11k each to the operation of the safeguarding boards which assists the councils in demonstrating leadership and commitment to the delivery of the board programmes. In return training is provided at nil cost to contributing partners.

3.2 Legal- the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014 requires the councils to have in place appropriate policies training and reporting structures to ensure safeguarding. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act requires the Councils to mainstream activities to deter and prevent crime. Recent serious case reviews and inquiries have identified a whole system approach is required to protect vulnerable persons from abuse.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Work towards safer and healthier local communities

- Improve Community Safety
- Work with our partners to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults and prevent them becoming victims of crime
- Promote Healthier Communities
- Address the needs of the elderly and those who are vulnerable

9. Next Step

Promote the Buckinghamshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults policy and the joint Chiltern and South Bucks Child Protection Policy to all staff via the training pathways as detailed in the policies.

Background Papers:	It is a legal requirement that we make available any background papers relied on to prepare the report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of Part 1 background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services)
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[Safeguarding adults board policies-and-guidance](#)

[Care Act Guidance](#)