



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET - 7 DECEMBER 2020
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 10
Subject	SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Jenny Forde - Cabinet Member for Health, Well-being and Public Safety Email: jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Jon Dearing - Group Manager for Resident Services Tel: 01993 861221 Email: jon.dearing@publicagroup.uk
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Summary/Purpose	To inform Members of the introduction of the new Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
Annexes	Annex A - Safeguarding Policy and Procedures Annex B - Equality Impact Assessment
Recommendation/s	<i>That Cabinet agrees and adopts the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.</i>
Corporate priorities	Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standards. Support Health and Wellbeing
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, S151 Office, Interim Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Group Manager for Resident Services, Publica Senior Management Team

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Care Act (2014) places a duty on local authorities to:
 - Consider people's wellbeing when making decisions around care and support
 - Provide services or take steps towards preventing, delaying or reducing the needs for care and support
 - Providing information and advice on services available locally
- 1.2. Safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Safeguarding adults means protecting a person who is over the age of 18. Safeguarding is about people and organisations working together. Cotswold District Council with other partner agencies wants to reduce the risks of abuse or neglect happening and make sure the person's views, wishes, feelings and beliefs are a key part of deciding on any action. It is important that a person's wellbeing is promoted at all times.
- 1.3. The Council discharges a number of functions that impact upon the lives of adults. In addition employees, elected members, contractors and volunteers work in close proximity to adults with vulnerabilities as part of their daily duties. Consequently the Council has a significant role to play in safeguarding adults and the promotion of their welfare. Statutory and discretionary services discharged by the Council include Licensing; Benefits; Planning; Environmental Health; Strategic Housing; Homelessness; Enforcement; Community safety; Leisure management and Customer services. Where appropriate, and within legal guidelines, the Council must share information with other agencies to protect adults at risk from harm.
- 1.4. The Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures detail the Council's role, aims and responsibilities and, through training and awareness, will empower employees and members to take proactive and decisive action when they have a concern about an adult.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. The Council, as a lower tier authority, has a statutory responsibility and duty of care to report issues relating to Safeguarding to the appropriate authorities and/or agencies.
- 2.2. Cotswold District Council is a member of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB) and the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board (GSCB)
- 2.3. Through the implementation of this Policy the Council is ensuring there is a corporate policy on safeguarding covering all council services to provide a clear strategic direction and clear lines of accountability.
- 2.4. A similar Policy will be adopted for Publica Group Ltd to ensure its officers support the Council's duties in respect of safeguarding vulnerable groups.
- 2.5. Internal consultation and engagement will be undertaken as necessary to ensure the effective implementation and delivery of this Policy.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. There are no financial implications in respect of this Policy.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Children Act 2004, the Care Act 2014 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 place duties on the Council to ensure its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. The Council has a duty of care for children and young people who take part in activities, or access services that it provides. The Council recognises that all children and young people have a right to be safe and to be protected from abuse and harm. By not having a policy and associated training in place for staff, children and young people could be exposed to increased risk of abuse and this could damage the Council's reputation.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1. An equalities impact assessment has been completed and demonstrates that there are no negative impacts on any groups arising from this policy.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 7.1. None

(END)