



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET – 16 OCTOBER 2025
Subject	SAFEGUARDING POLICY UPDATE JULY 2025
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Claire Bloomer, Cabinet Member for Communities Email: claire.bloomer@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Claire Locke, Executive Director, Publica Email: claire.locke@publicagroup.uk Susan Hughes, Business Manager Support and Advice and Designated Safeguarding Lead Email: susan.hughes@publicagroup.uk
Report author	Paula Massey, Enabling Manager and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Email: paula.massey@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To inform Members of the updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
Annexes	Annex A - Safeguarding Policy and Procedures Annex B - Equality Impact Assessment
Recommendation(s)	That Cabinet resolves to: 1. Agree and adopt the updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting Communities
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/	Cotswold District Council Senior Leadership Team.



COTSWOLD
District Council

Consultation	<p>Publica Executive Leadership Team.</p> <p>No wider consultation as this is an update to the Cabinet approved policy 12 November 2020.</p>
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** The Care Act (2014) places a duty on local authorities to:
- 1.2** Consider people's wellbeing when making decisions around care and support.
- 1.3** Provide services or take steps towards preventing, delaying or reducing the needs for care and support.
- 1.4** Providing information and advice on services available locally.
- 1.5** In October 2020 the Cotswold District Council Cabinet approved the implementation of Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- 1.6** This updated policy consolidates changes to referral processes and clarifies key responsibilities, ensuring the Council continues to meet its statutory duty of care.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Cotswold District Council is committed to safeguarding, which primarily involves protecting adults at risk, young people, and children from harm, abuse, or neglect. This commitment also extends to early intervention, promoting health and wellbeing, and upholding human rights. In collaboration with partner agencies, the Council aims to reduce the risk of abuse or neglect and ensure that individuals' views, wishes, feelings, and beliefs are central to any decisions made. Promoting individual wellbeing remains a core priority throughout all safeguarding actions.
- 2.2** Cotswold District Council delivers a range of services that directly impact the lives of adults, young people, and children. Employees, elected members, contractors, and volunteers often work closely with individuals who may be at risk, placing the Council in a key position to safeguard and promote adult welfare. Services such as Licensing, Benefits, Planning, Environmental Health, Strategic Housing, Homelessness, Enforcement, Community Safety, Leisure Management, and Customer Services all play a role in this responsibility. Where appropriate and within legal parameters, the Council is required to share information with partner agencies to protect adults at risk of harm.
- 2.3** The Safeguarding Policy outlines the Council's roles, aims, and responsibilities. Through training and increased awareness, they equip employees and members to take proactive and informed action when concerns arise regarding an adult, young person or child's safety or wellbeing.



3. MAIN POINTS

- 3.1** As a second-tier authority, the Council has a statutory responsibility and duty of care to report safeguarding concerns to the appropriate authorities and agencies.
- 3.2** Cotswold District Council is a member of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB) and the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (GSCP).
- 3.3** Key data relating to cases:
- Rising safeguarding activity in 2023–2024
 - 11 cases during financial year 2024-2025
 - 5 cases this financial year as at 19.09.25
 - Mental Health & Suicide Ideation: Most frequent category
- 3.4** By implementing this Policy, the Council establishes a corporate-wide approach to safeguarding that applies across all services, providing clear strategic direction and defined lines of accountability.
- 3.5** A similar Policy will be adopted for Publica Group Ltd to ensure its officers support the Council's duties in respect of safeguarding at risk groups.

Internal consultation and engagement will be undertaken as necessary to ensure the effective implementation and delivery of this Policy.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1** The Council could decide not to review the current Safeguarding policy. However, this is not good practice as the guidance has changed, and the Policy should therefore be updated to reflect this.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The current resourcing of the safeguarding function requires a review to ensure that all statutory responsibilities of the Councils are being effectively met. Subject to the outcome of this review and discussions with Councils, there may be a need to consider additional staffing resources to strengthen the safeguarding function and ensure continued compliance and effectiveness.
- 5.2** There will be a requirement to deliver ongoing training and awareness which could have financial implications, it is anticipated that this can be managed within the existing training budget allocation.



6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** 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 adults at risk.
- 6.2** The Council requires up to date policies to support its actions and avoid legal challenges.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1** The Council has a duty of care towards adults at risk, children, and young people who participate in its activities or access its services. It recognises that all adults at risk, young people and children have the right to be safe and protected from harm. Without a safeguarding policy and appropriate staff training, there is an increased risk of harm to individuals and potential reputational damage to the Council.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1** An equality impact assessment has been completed and is attached as Annex B to this report.

9. CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY, AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1** None.

(END)