

# Executive

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Report of **Head of Corporate Strategy**

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Wards Affected  
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## **Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy**

### ***Recommendations***

*That the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy be approved.*

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The Children Act<sup>1</sup> sets out new requirements in relation to vulnerable children, and we have updated our policy relating to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults in the light of these new requirements.
- 1.2 Executive is asked to agree the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and procedures attached. This policy has been developed jointly by staff from the Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, and the policy will apply to both councils.

### **2. Relationship with Corporate Plan**

- 2.1 Safeguarding is a statutory duty. This policy is about managing risk around working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, it therefore it makes a contribution to our strategic objective to manage our business effectively.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Section 11 of the Children Act widens the responsibilities of local authorities in relation to children – as well as protecting children from harm we now have a responsibility to

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act, DiES, 2007

promote the welfare of children. The Act applies to a range of public bodies, including district councils, whose housing, environmental health, leisure and licensing teams are seen as having a particular role to play.

We have the following responsibilities under the Act:

- to produce a clear statement or policy on the councils responsibilities and ensure all staff are aware
- allocate clear lines of responsibility on safeguarding issues – and identify a designated officer who will ensure the duties are met and will be the first point of contact for staff to report concerns to
- provide training for all staff and councillors appropriate to their roles and the level of contact they are likely to have with children
- ensure we have safe recruitment practices, including Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks appropriate to the level of contact staff and councillors are likely to have with children.

Our proposals for these are set out in the draft policy attached.

#### **4. Options**

4.1 There are no alternative options. A policy that is appropriate for the councils is required.

#### **5. Financial, legal and any other implications**

5.1 Financial implications arising from the proposals contained in this report will be relatively minor. These relate to an increase in the number of CRB checks required on staff appointment, and the cost of providing higher level training to a small number of staff, for which there could be a small charge. These costs can be accommodated within existing budgets.

5.2 Legal Implications: This report and the draft policy attached sets out how we will implement our responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act.

#### **6. Conclusion**

6.1 Executive is requested to agree the councils' first Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy which will ensure that we are meeting our responsibilities to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm and promote their wellbeing.

#### **Background Papers:**

Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act, DfES, 2007

#### **Appendix:**

Draft Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy