

Report of City Solicitor

Report to Member Management Committee

Date: 15th September 2015

Subject: Members Mandatory Safeguarding Training

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Safeguarding Children, Young People and vulnerable Adults from abuse is everybody's business. Safeguarding is a key priority and statutory responsibility for the Council. Elected Members have a statutory role as being politically accountable for ensuring that the council fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of its local residents.

Due to the importance of the subject, Councillor Blake, as the Leader of Council, has made it clear that annual Safeguarding training to be made mandatory for all Members.

2. After discussions involving Member Development, officers from Citizens and Communities and both the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards, and in consultation with Councillor Blake, a proposed training programme has been drawn up.

To keep the training current and relevant for Members, the programme will be linked to the council's local agenda, including the community committees' safeguarding priorities, and the work of the Safeguarding Boards. There is also the intention of working with our third sector partners in the delivery of the programme.

Recommendations

1. Member Management Committee is asked to note the structure of the training programme and is requested to endorse the proposal for the annual mandatory safeguarding training.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed safeguarding training and to seek approval of Member Management Committee to make the training mandatory for all Members.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Safeguarding is seen as a crucial aspect of the council's work, linking to many local agendas. Growing awareness of the prevalence of abuse makes it all the more urgent and necessary for councillors to have the required knowledge and skills to support the council's safeguarding responsibilities and have the ability to challenge and scrutinise how these are carried out in the planning and delivery of services.

Whilst many Members will have a wide variety of experience, knowledge and skills and many will have a sound understanding of their role in relation to safeguarding, often the complex and critical nature of the subject means it is not appropriate to make assumptions that everyone has equal understanding of this challenging and shared responsibility.

- 2.2 The aim of the training programme is to enable Members to be kept updated on key aspects of the Children and Adults Safeguarding agenda and the latest council developments, as well as provide the skills and tools to be able to effectively practice their governance role in making Leeds a safer city for all its citizens.

The training will also equip Members to be able to recognise safeguarding concerns and gain a better understanding of the referral processes in order to avoid any difficult situations when dealing with their casework.

3 Main issues

Proposed Training

- 3.1 It is vital that the annual training programme is current, relevant and avoids any repetition. The proposed training will follow a three yearly training cycle recommended for professional and safeguarding practitioners.
- 3.2 All Members will be required to attend a compulsory update session every three years. This will be a generic session that will cover the core areas of the safeguarding agenda including:

- overview of the latest developments in safeguarding covering adults and children;
- Members' governance role and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children, adults and young people;
- the council's current commitments and work programme, and .
- the referral processes.

3.3 For the two years in between, it is proposed that Member Development would work with Area Leaders and officers from both the Children and Adults' Safeguarding Boards to establish two to three bespoke themed workshops.

3.4 These workshops will be based on relevant topics that could be linked with the community committee safeguarding priorities and the work of both the Children and Adults' Safeguarding Boards. All Members will be required to undertake at least one of the mandatory workshops on an annual basis, but will also have the opportunity to select the workshop topic they would like to attend.

3.5 Newly elected Member's will be required to attend a compulsory safeguarding session offered as part of the induction programme.

Safeguarding training 2015/16

3.6 For this municipal year, in order to get Members up to speed with the latest changes and developments all Members will be required to attend a generic safeguarding session, with the full training programme to be rolled out around autumn 2016.

Other training offers

3.7 Members throughout the year will also have the opportunity to attend any free training that may be offered locally through the safeguarding boards or the council's Performance and Learning system (PAL). This training could support the mandatory training, but would not replace it.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

The training programme is supported by the Leader of the Council, Area Leaders and officers from both the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.3 The proposed training is closely aligned to the Vision for Leeds, the City Priority Plan and the Best Council Plan.

There are also a number of aspects in relation to safeguarding which have an equality perspective and these will be considered as part of the development of the training.

4.4 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.5** The recommendation put forward in this report relates to the aims and priorities of the Best Council Plan and City Priority Plan in relation to Supporting communities and tackling poverty, Building a child-friendly city and Delivering the better lives programme.

4.6 Resources and value for money

- 4.7** There are no apparent direct costs in delivering the training programme, but there may be some financial costs when involving third sector partners, in developing training material and delivery. Provision will be made within the Member Development budget to account for these costs.

4.8 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.9** All elected Members have a legal responsibility in ensuring that the council's safeguarding policies and procedures are robust and are integrated into the overall strategic planning of the council's services. It is therefore essential that Members have sufficient training to be able to undertake these responsibilities and have the ability to hold relevant officers to account.

4.10 Risk Management

- 4.11** The Council may be subject to risk if it is unable to demonstrate that sufficient training has been provided to Members in order for them to undertake their responsibility in ensuring that the council fulfils its safeguarding requirements.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1** Elected Members in surgeries and at meetings may come across safeguarding issues, and in order to be able to recognise these cases and successfully challenge the quality and effectiveness of services that protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm, Members must have sufficient training and up-to-date detail of safeguarding practices.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1** Members are requested to endorse the proposal for the mandatory safeguarding training for all Members.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1** None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.