

Report of City Solicitor

Report to Member Management Committee

Date: 13th September 2016

Subject: Essential Member 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. The Member Management Committee in September 2015 requested an update report on the attendance of the 2015-16 safeguarding training programme and also outlining how the essential annual safeguarding training would be delivered in future.
2. A joint Safeguarding Children and Adults training was offered as part of the 2015-16 Member Development Learning Programme. The aim of the training was to bring Members up to speed with the latest changes and developments of the safeguarding agenda and the referral processes, as well as to gather further feedback from Members on how future training should be delivered.

After discussions involving Member Development, officers from Citizens and Communities and both the Children and Adults' Safeguarding Boards, and in consultation with Community Committee Chairs, it is proposed that the training be linked to the wider regional joint initiative of an annual safeguarding week.

3. The training week is being coordinated by Leeds Safeguarding Children Board and is a collaboration between the Safeguarding Children Board's from across West Yorkshire, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Adult Safeguarding Boards and will consist of a variety of safeguarding events, workshops and activities being hosted by different organisations involved in safeguarding within the West Yorkshire region.

Recommendations

1. Members are requested to:

(i) endorse the proposal for Members' safeguarding training to be linked with the joint West Yorkshire initiative.

(ii) request that the Member Development Officer work with all group whips to ensure that Members attend at least one session of the safeguarding training during the week.

(iii) to review the success of the week and to report back to a future meeting of the Member Management Committee.

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Member Management Committee for Members' safeguarding training in future to be linked with the joint annual safeguarding week's initiative.

2 Background information

2.1 The 2015-16 Members' Safeguarding training programme was delivered jointly by the Children and Adults' safeguarding teams between the periods from January to March 2016. Four sessions, one of which was a mop-up session, were delivered. Members were given the option of attending either a morning, afternoon or an evening session. In total forty seven Members attended the training. Below is a Group breakdown.

Labour	30
Conservative	12
Lib Democratic	3
Green	1
MBI	1

A number of methods of engagement were used to encourage Members to attend including support from group offices, area leaders and Group Whips.

2.2 Safeguarding is seen as a crucial aspect of the council's work, linking to many local agendas. Councillors are very often in the front line and the growing awareness of the prevalence of abuse makes it all the more urgent and necessary for all councillors to be fully briefed and to have the required knowledge and skills to be able to recognise the underlying or contributory factors in cases to support the council's safeguarding responsibilities, as well as have the ability to challenge and scrutinise how these are carried out in the planning and delivery of services.

It is important to build on the generic training which was provided in 2015/16 and the variety of training workshops, seminars and activities envisaged to be held during the week will enable Members to be updated on the key aspects of the Children and Adults' Safeguarding agenda. It will also open up opportunities for Members to share good practice and be kept informed of the current safeguarding work being undertaken by other organisations within the West Yorkshire region.

3 Main issues

Proposed Training Week

- 3.1 The training week will be an annual event taking place in the month of October; this corresponds with when other regional authorities hold their safeguarding week. It is intended that the week will consist of a series of seminars, workshops and other activities looking at different safeguarding topics, as well as providing an opportunity for organisations taking part to showcase the kind of work they are doing in protecting children and adults in the region.

These events will be publicised through different media including press and social media by the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board and through member development.

- 3.2 The week's activities will allow Members more choice and opportunity for selecting and attending events of interest. It will also establish a recognised period when the safeguarding training will take place as part of the Members annual learning programme. Members would be required to attend at least one of the scheduled events as part of the Members' essential safeguarding training during that week.
- 3.3 It is intended that member development in consultation with relevant Members and officers will participate annually in the week through hosting a couple of themed workshops. These events 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.
- 3.4 Newly elected Member's will still be required to attend the essential safeguarding session offered as part of the induction programme.

Safeguarding training 2016/17

- 3.5 The training week for this year is scheduled to take place between the 17th to the 21st October. As this is the first year of the initiative the full list of workshops and activities has not yet been finalised, but member development is intending to work with Children's Services and officers from Citizens and Communities in hosting an event around Corporate Parenting during the week, a topic that has already been identified to be included in this year's Members' training programme.

Full details of the week's programme will be sent out to all Members once agreed.

Other training offers

- 3.6 Members throughout the year will also have the opportunity to attend any other free training that may be offered locally through the safeguarding boards or the council's Performance and Learning system (PAL).

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

Consultation took place with community committee chairs, officers from Citizens and Communities and 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 would be considered as part of the week's activities and the development of any Member 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 direct costs in attending any of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board events, but there may be some financial costs for attending other regional partner events. 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 to ensure 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 knowledge of safeguarding practices. The variety of learning opportunities to be held during the week will enable Members to be able to develop the skills and be equipped with the tools to be able to effectively practise their governance role in making Leeds a safer city for all its citizens.

6. **Recommendations**

6.1 Members are requested to:

(i) endorse the proposal for Members safeguarding training to be linked with the joint West Yorkshire initiative.

(ii) request that the member development officer work with all group whips to ensure that Members attend at least one session of the safeguarding training during the week.

(iii) to review the success of the week and to report back to a future meeting of the Member Management Committee.

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.