

Title: Children’s and Adults Safeguarding Champions: End of Term Briefing Note

Lead Officer: Marianne Rolfe, Marianne.rolfe@warwickdc.gov.uk 01926 456700

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Judy Falp

Safeguarding Champions: Councillors Geraldine Cullinan & Judy Falp

Wards of the District directly affected: All

Approvals required	Date	Name
Portfolio Holder	15/2/23	
Finance		
Legal Services		
Chief Executive		
Director of Climate Change		
Head of Service(s)	14/2/23	
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Leadership Co-ordination Group		
Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?	No	
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?	No	
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?	No	
Accessibility Checked?	Yes	

1. Summary

1.1 This Briefing Note provides an annual end of term update about Children's and Adults Safeguarding.

2. Safeguarding Group

2.1 Safeguarding is managed corporately through the Safeguarding Group.

2.2 Joint meetings of Stratford District Council's and Warwick District Council's Safeguarding Groups (referred to as the Group in this Briefing Note) were held on a quarterly basis.

2.3 The Group continues to provide a key focus on children's and adults' safeguarding.

2.4 The Group comprises:

- Head of Safer Communities, Leisure and Environment, as Strategic Lead Safeguarding Officer
- 2 Member Safeguarding Champions
- 25 Officer Safeguarding Representatives

3. Safeguarding meetings

3.1 The meeting agenda for the Group includes regular updates on referrals, action plan, domestic abuse, exploitation, extreme ideologies, radicalisation, and counter terrorism.

3.2 The Group regularly considers [Lessons Learned](#) from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews, as well as [7-minute Briefings](#), which are a quick and simple way to share learning on a range of safeguarding topics. By reviewing these learnings, the Group ensures robust processes are in place to prevent any such issues arising.

3.2 The Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Action Plan is regularly monitored and updated and currently contains 14 actions as follows:

- 3 on-going
- 4 in progress
- 7 are scheduled to be done in 2023

4. Referrals

4.1 To date, during 2022-2023, WDC made 56 safeguarding referrals to Warwickshire Safeguarding and of these:

31 referrals were made for adults

6 for children

19 for families

4.2 In addition, the Group assisted Warwickshire Safeguarding with one Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

5. Achievements

5.1 The Group conducted out a major review of the safeguarding policy documents which resulted in Cabinet approving new Safeguarding Policy, Information and Procedures in April 2022.

5.2 The Strategic Lead Safeguarding Officer participated in a deep dive investigation event in November 2022 on the treatment of LGBT+ persons, including focus on the handling of hate crime.

5.3 The Modern Slavery Statement was introduced this year in accordance with the National Procurement Policy Statement which required that:

'Councils must implement measures to identify and mitigate modern slavery risks in contracts and contract requirements for collaborative working to improve labour standards in contract operations and supply chains; and being fully transparent about all of this by publishing steps taken.'

5.4 Internal Audit carried out an audit of the safeguarding function in September 2022 and gave a substantial degree of assurance. This means that there is a sound system of control in place and compliance with the key controls. The audit report made three recommendations for action, all of which were completed in October 2022.

5.5 The Group contributed to Warwickshire Safeguarding's Thematic Tabletop Review on Self Neglect and has been invited to participate in the next stage.

6. Safeguarding awareness information

6.1 Safeguarding information and training opportunities are regularly disseminated via the Group to the wider organisation, which have included the following:

- 'Be Well' to improve mental wellbeing across Warwickshire
- training on right wing extremism - signs, threats and risks
- Galop training opportunity on LGBT+ specialist domestic abuse
- victim blaming language
- preventing online grooming
- cuckooing/home invasion
- professional curiosity
- financial abuse
- impact of drugs and alcohol
- preventing harm/death by fire
- using the Mental Capacity Act
- intro to trauma
- social prescribing
- working with advocates
- suicide awareness/prevention training
- child exploitation training in Warwickshire