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| <b>Committee:</b>  | <b>Dated:</b>          |
| Housing Management & Almshouses Sub-Committee                      | 18/01/2016             |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>Safeguarding Policy – Housing Services          | <b>Public</b>          |
| <b>Report of:</b><br>Director of Community and Children’s Services | <b>For Information</b> |

### **Summary**

1. Local authorities have a statutory responsibility for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse or neglect and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. The City Corporation’s approach to the legislative requirements is set out in its corporate safeguarding policy. Statutory guidance on safeguarding requires the cooperation of a significant number of public services and agencies. Officers have therefore created a policy for safeguarding for the City Corporation’s housing services, specifically the Housing and Neighbourhoods Division and Barbican and Property Services Division. The policy complements the City’s corporate safeguarding policy and reflects legislation and guidance on safeguarding for both children and adults at risk. It sets out the City Corporation’s aims, roles and responsibilities in ensuring effective safeguarding across its housing services in partnership with other agencies. The policy is supported by detailed procedures for staff. It will assist in ensuring ensure the effective implementation of safeguarding arrangements and the development of staff.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the report.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

2. Local authorities have a statutory responsibility for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse or neglect and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. The Care Act 2014 and the 1989 and 2004 Children Acts make it clear that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and that professionals, organisations and local authorities must work in partnership when carrying out their duties under the legislation.

#### **Current Position**

3. The City Corporation’s overall approach to these requirements is set out in its corporate safeguarding policy and overseen by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board.
4. The multi-disciplinary approach set out by the guidance on safeguarding legislation requires the cooperation of a significant number of public services and agencies. The role and responsibilities of each of these varies. Officers have

therefore created a policy for safeguarding for the City of London Corporation's housing services, specifically the Housing and Neighbourhoods Division and the Barbican and Property Services Division.

5. The policy complements the City's corporate safeguarding policy. It draws on and reflects the relevant legislation and guidance on safeguarding for both children and adults at risk and sets out the City's housing services aims, role and responsibilities in ensuring effective safeguarding in partnership with other agencies. It indicates how the City's housing services may be involved in identifying instances of abuse or neglect, how the services will respond to such instances and how it will share information and work with others. The policy document is attached as Appendix 1.
6. The policy will be owned by the Housing and Neighbourhoods Division but for practical purposes will also apply to staff in the Barbican and Property Services Division. The policy is supported by detailed procedures for staff. Comprehensive training in safeguarding has been provided for all housing staff. Selected managers have been appointed as safeguarding leads to ensure to ensure the effective implementation of safeguarding arrangements and support staff in delivering the policy objectives. The policy document will assist in the induction and training of new staff and the continued development of existing staff.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

7. The policy supports the corporate safeguarding policy and contributes to the delivery of a number of priorities within the Department of Community and Children's Business Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan.

### **Implications**

8. There are no financial legal or HR implications.

### **Conclusion**

9. Safeguarding legislation requires a multi-disciplinary approach and the close cooperation of numerous public services. A housing-specific policy on safeguarding will complement the City Corporation's corporate safeguarding arrangements policy, clarify aims, role and responsibilities across its housing services in ensuring effective safeguarding in partnership with other agencies.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - City of London Housing Service Safeguarding Policy Children & Adults at Risk

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