

Committee:	Dated: 22/03/2021
Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee	
Subject: Safeguarding Policy Review	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Liam Gillespie, Head of Housing Management, DCCS	

Summary

The Housing Division's Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed as part of a project to refresh our housing management policies and create several new ones. This policy was first approved in 2016 and it outlines the Housing Division's approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.

The policy is supported by guidance for officers on safeguarding procedures. The Housing Division's training programme includes safeguarding training for staff of all grades at appropriate intervals.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- approve the reviewed Safeguarding Policy for use by the Housing Division

Main Report

Background

1. Local authorities have statutory safeguarding responsibilities in relation to adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. The legislation makes it clear that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone, and that organisations and professionals must work in partnership when carrying out their duties.

2. The City Corporation's corporate safeguarding policy sets out its overall approach to safeguarding matters. Safeguarding strategy and practice is overseen by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board.
3. Effective safeguarding requires a multi-disciplinary approach and the duties of various professionals can differ significantly. The Housing Division therefore devised a Safeguarding Policy several years ago in order to explain its approach to safeguarding in a housing context. The policy was approved by this Committee in January 2016 and has now been refreshed as part of the ongoing review of all the City Corporation's housing management policies.

Current Position

4. The policy is supported by guidance for housing officers, which is also being refreshed. This guidance will be reinforced by training for officers of all grades, which will be scheduled as part of the annual training plan for the Housing Division.
5. In addition, more senior staff have been designated as safeguarding leads and receive additional training, to ensure that they are able to support staff in dealing with safeguarding issues and work effectively with colleagues from different agencies to meet safeguarding priorities. The training received by housing staff includes general safeguarding awareness, as well as more specialist training regarding issues such as domestic abuse and modern-day slavery.
6. The policy has been updated following the statutory revised guidance issued in 2017, following the Care Act of 2014. We have also simplified some sections and removed procedural descriptions from the policy, as these are best covered in the supporting guidance.
7. We have explicitly linked other relevant policies to this one, as they concern areas of housing management practice which frequently involve safeguarding considerations (antisocial behaviour, domestic abuse and hate incidents).

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. This policy directly supports Corporate Plan outcome number 1: "people are safe and feel safe". It directly addresses our pledge to safeguard children and adults at risk.

Conclusion

9. The Safeguarding Policy for the Housing Division has been refreshed, having been in place since 2016. The policy supports our Corporate safeguarding aims and is itself supported by guidance for officers. The policy has been updated in

light of statutory guidance issued in 2017 and is now linked explicitly to other relevant housing management policies.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Draft Safeguarding Policy (v.2 – 2021)
- Appendix 2: Consultation feedback

Liam Gillespie

Head of Housing Management
Department of Community and Children's Services

E: liam.gillespie@cityoflondon.gov.uk

T: 020 7332 3785