

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Open Spaces Committee	25 November 2013
Subject: Open Spaces Departmental Safeguarding Policy	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
<p>Summary</p> <p>Work with children, young people and vulnerable adults at City of London Corporation Open Spaces has expanded and developed in recent years. Safeguarding of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who visit our sites is essential. A Departmental policy has been drafted which outlines responsibilities officers have in relation to safeguarding.</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report • Agree the Departmental Safeguarding Policy appended to this report 	

Main Report

Background

1. The Children Act (1989) and (2004) states that people who work with children have to keep them safe. Safeguarding is defined as actions taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
2. Members of staff at Open Spaces Sites have regular contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults through education work, supervising apprentices and volunteers.
3. A recent audit of safeguarding policies was carried out across the City of London Corporation, and several departments have developed local safeguarding policies.

Current Position

4. A Safeguarding Policy was developed by the Community Education Officer at Hampstead Heath. This policy was for North London Open Spaces and has been implemented at these sites. With increasing educational and volunteer programmes at all sites it was felt appropriate to adapt the North London Open Spaces policy for cross-departmental use.

Proposals

5. A Safeguarding Policy has been drafted which designates the officers responsible for safeguarding and specifies the processes all officers must follow when working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
6. The policy was developed in consultation with colleagues in Community and Children's Services. A safeguarding training programme is currently being developed which will be delivered to all members of staff who have regular contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
7. The policy outlines the responsibilities of officers in safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults and how suspicions of neglect or abuse should be acted upon.
8. The policy will remain under review by the Director of Open Spaces to ensure it best supports safeguarding. The policy will return to committee if major revisions are required at any time.

Implications

9. The Open Spaces training budget will be utilised to pay for the safeguarding training programme which will accompany the introduction of the policy.

Conclusion

10. The Safeguarding Policy has been drafted to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safeguarded during their time at Open Spaces sites. It provides an accessible guide to staff to ensure they adhere to good practice in this area.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Open Spaces Departmental Safeguarding Policy

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