

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub Committee (Community and Children's) Services	02/06/2016
Subject: Safeguarding Policy – Housing Services	Public
Report of: Ade Adetosoye, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

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 of London 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 specific safeguarding policy for the City of London Corporation's housing services. 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 housing service's aims, role and responsibilities in ensuring effective safeguarding in partnership with other agencies. The policy is supported by detailed procedures for staff. It will assist in ensuring the effective implementation of safeguarding arrangements and the development of staff. The policy was approved by the Housing Management & Almshouses Sub-Committee on 18 January 2016.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

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.

The safeguarding policy (housing services) referred to in this report was approved by the Housing Management & Almshouses Sub-Committee on 18 January 2016.

Current Position

The City of London 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.

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 specific safeguarding policy for the City of London Corporation's housing services.

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 housing service's 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 they will share information and work with others. The policy document is attached at Appendix 1.

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 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 along with the continued development of existing staff.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

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

Implications

There are no financial legal or HR implications.

Conclusion

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's corporate safeguarding arrangements policy and clarify the housing service's aims, role and responsibilities 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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