



Safeguarding Policy

February 2022

Basildon Borough Council

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Responsible Committee	Enforcement and Public Order
Service Impact Assessment (SIA)	January 2022
Consultee(s)	
Groups and/or individuals consulted during the review of this policy	Basildon Managers Group – 19 November to 3 December 2021
Groups and/or individuals consulted on draft Policy	Senior Leadership Team – 19 January 2022 Enforcement and Public Order Committee – 15 March 2022
Governance	
The Policy applies to:	All Basildon Borough employees, members, those delivering contracts on behalf of the council and volunteers
The Policy is available in the following locations:	Publications Scheme Intranet Council website / Service webpage
This Policy has related documents	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] <u>Procedures</u> and referral forms
The Policy was disseminated to:	All Basildon Council employees through BasNews Council Members
This Policy is due its next review:	February 2027

Document Control

Date	Version	Action	Amendment(s)
Feb 2019	2		Minimal - refresh
Feb 2022	3		Update to Domestic Abuse section due to new legislation / role of SETDAB and CCGs added as partner organisations

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1. Executive Summary

Basildon Borough Council (the council) is fully committed to its duties and responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk¹ of abuse, neglect and exploitation. This Safeguarding Policy reinforces that commitment and provides reassurance that the council will act in the best interests of the local community.

Safeguarding cannot be achieved by one agency alone and the role we play, alongside our safeguarding partners to effectively deliver this commitment across Southend Essex and Thurrock is paramount. We will therefore demand good public services from our partner agencies in this regard.

All children and adults have the right to participate and be safe receiving the services provided for them regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. This includes a right to protection from abuse, neglect, and any form of exploitation.

This Safeguarding Policy aims to ensure that a consistent approach to safeguarding exists across all council services. It outlines key roles and responsibilities of individual officers to embed safeguarding policies, practices and procedures into the council's everyday business.

The council offers support to those working with children, young people and adults at risk by providing training, guidance and procedures, enabling them to protect themselves and others when dealing with residents who are at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

This policy is supported by a Safeguarding Strategy which sets out the required actions to be taken to secure delivery of this policy, underpinned by a range of operational procedures which are consistent with the local authority areas of Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET).

¹ The term 'adult at risk' is interchangeable with the term 'adult with care and support needs' throughout this document

2. Policy Statement

Basildon Borough Council is committed to working in partnership with others to safeguard children and adults at risk from all forms of abuse, neglect or exploitation. The council will raise awareness of safeguarding issues to ensure that the needs and interests of children, young people and adults at risk are incumbent in decision making processes and through service provision.

This policy aims to ensure that an overarching approach to safeguarding is embedded within all council services and that employees, members, those delivering contracts on behalf of the council and volunteers understand their role and responsibilities in supporting all residents to live a life free from abuse, exploitation and intimidation.

We will create an environment where staff are trained to an appropriate level and encouraged to think of safeguarding as being their responsibility, understanding the need for them to play a full and active part in the delivery of the council's response to protect people from harm.

We will create an organisational culture where the reporting of abuse and exploitation is encouraged and staff, members and contractors feel supported to do so.

The council believes that all individuals, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation, should have the greatest possible control over their lives. They should be able to make informed decisions or be supported to make these decisions if unable to do so themselves, without fear of harm or abuse from others.

The council will ensure that it complies with all safeguarding legislation, data protection legislation and government guidance.

3. Information Sharing and Confidentiality

In order to keep people safe from harm, professionals will share relevant information across geographical and professional boundaries as required by law, in particular Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and in accordance with the council's Information Management Policy; Section 1.1.1 Personal data as defined in the retained EU law version of the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("UK GDPR") and the Data Protection Act 2018 ("DPA 2018"); and relevant partner Information Sharing Protocols.

When there is a reasonable cause to believe that a child, young person or adult with care and support needs may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering harm, consideration will always be given to referring these concerns to the relevant authorities under the council's safeguarding responsibilities.

4. Safeguarding Responsibilities

Safeguarding is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse and neglect. The council has an important role to play in:

4.1 Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children & Young People

This encompasses the protection and welfare of children under the age of 18 (including unborn babies). It also incorporates the additional aims of preventing the impairment of children's health and development; ensuring they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

Types of Abuse

There are four main types of abuse of children:

Physical abuse - physical harm or injury

Sexual abuse - forcing or enticing participation in sexual activities (regardless of whether or not the child or young person is aware of what is happening)

Neglect - persistent failure to meet basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of health or development

Emotional abuse - persistent emotional maltreatment to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on emotional development

4.2 Safeguarding Adults

The purpose of adult safeguarding is to prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs. The statutory framework introduced under the Care Act 2014 applies to any person aged 18 or above who:

- Has needs for care and support (regardless of the level of need and whether these needs are being met),
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect, **and**
- As a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Adults with care and support needs should be supported in maintaining control over their lives and to make informed choices without coercion. Ill-treatment and willful neglect of a person who lacks capacity is a criminal offence under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Ill-treatment and willful neglect are also offences for paid health care and social care workers, along with care provider organisations, through the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015, protecting adults with capacity, as well as children.

Types of Abuse

The main types of abuse of adults are:

Physical abuse - non accidental infliction of physical force that results, or could result, in bodily injury, pain or impairment.

Sexual abuse - involvement, either direct or indirect, in sexual activity without consent. It could also be the inability to consent, pressured or induced to consent or take part.

Emotional or psychological abuse - acts or behaviour which impinge on the emotional health or, which cause distress or anguish.

Financial abuse - unauthorised, fraudulent obtaining and/or improper use of funds, property, or any resources.

Neglect, willful neglect and acts of omission - ignoring or withholding physical or medical care needs.

Discriminatory abuse - values, beliefs, or culture result in a misuse of power that denies mainstream opportunities. It includes discrimination based on race, gender, age, sexuality, disability, or religion, or any of the other protected characteristics.

Institutional or Organisational abuse - an organisation imposing rigid and insensitive routines; poor practices embedded in systems; unskilled, intrusive, or invasive interventions, or an environment allowing inadequate privacy or physical comfort.

Self-neglect – A wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

4.3 Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

It can happen to boys as well as girls, affecting children from any background, however some children may be more vulnerable to exploitation than others.

Criminal exploitation (CE) involves a young person, or adult at risk, being groomed into undertaking criminal activities, such as drug dealing/trafficking and working in cannabis farms, etc. It is often perpetrated by an adult through the threat or use of violence.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child, young person, or adult at risk's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Adults with care and support needs can also be criminally and sexually exploited. The grooming², power imbalance, manipulation and deception are the same as that used to exploit children.

4.4 Domestic Abuse

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if -

A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and the behaviour is abusive. Behaviour is "abusive" if it consists of any of the following:

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- (d) economic abuse;
- (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;

Regardless of whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

"Personally connected" means:

- (a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
- (b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
- (c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- (d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- (e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;

² Grooming is the process whereby an emotional connection to a child, young person, or adult at risk is built up to gain trust for the purposes of abuse, exploitation (sexual and/or criminal), for trafficking or for extremism.

- (f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child;
- (g) they are relatives.

Under the Act a child (under 18) is a victim of domestic abuse where they are related to either person A or B and where they see, hear, or experience the effects of the abuse. Further information relating to Domestic Abuse, and the Council's specific response to dealing with this particular type of abuse can be found in the Responding to Domestic Abuse Policy³.

4.5 Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation

Honour Based Abuse (HBA) is violence and abuse in the name of honour, covering a variety of behaviours (including crimes), mainly but not exclusively against females, where the person is being punished by their family and/or community for a perceived transgression against the 'honour' of the family or community, or is required to undergo certain activities or procedures in 'honour' of the family. This can also include harmful cultural practices such as breast ironing.

Honour Based Abuse is not a crime itself, however the practices used to punish individuals are criminal acts, i.e. abduction, assault and murder and includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and/or psychological abuse, financial abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

A Forced Marriage (FM) "is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of both parties, where duress is a factor" ('A Choice of Right' by HM Government 2000). Duress can involve physical, psychological, sexual, financial and/or emotional pressure. Under the ASB Crime & Policing Act 2014 it is illegal to:

- a. use violence, threats or any other form of coercion for the purposes of causing another person to enter into a marriage; and
- b. believe, or ought reasonably to believe, that the conduct may cause the other person to enter into the marriage without free and full consent.

Duress can involve physical, psychological, sexual, financial and/or emotional pressure.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a collective term for illegal procedures which include the removal of part/all external female genitalia for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. The practice is not required by any religion. It is painful, medically unnecessary and has serious health consequences at the time it is carried out and in later life. The procedure is typically performed on girls of any age but is also performed on new-born girls and on young women before marriage/pregnancy.

³

Responding to Domestic Abuse policy - [Responding to Domestic Abuse Policy - Basildon](#)

A number of girls die as a direct result of the procedure, from blood loss or infection. FGM may be practised illegally by doctors or traditional health workers in the UK, or girls may be taken abroad for the operation.

Where HBA and/or FGM takes place between personally connected individuals both HBA, FM and FGM can also be classed as a form of Domestic Abuse

4.6 Prevent

As part of the national counter-terrorist strategy Prevent aims to stop people becoming involved in terrorist activity or supporting terrorism by working with individuals and communities to address issues before they become a criminal matter, and to stop people moving from extremism⁴ into terrorist-related activity. Individuals who are identified as being at risk will be referred to the Channel Panel programme.

The Channel programme focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism⁵. Channel is about ensuring that people of any age, faith, ethnicity or background, who are vulnerable to being drawn into extremism, receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist activity.

There is no expectation for the council to take on a surveillance or enforcement role, rather, the council will work with partner organisations to contribute to the prevention of terrorism by safeguarding and protecting vulnerable individuals and making safety a shared endeavour.

4.7 Modern Slavery (and Human Trafficking)

Modern Slavery (and Human Trafficking) involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people who, with the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, abuse of power or deception are exploited for the purposes of prostitution, forced labour, slavery, forced criminality or other similar practices. Victims are trafficked all over the world, including in and around the UK, and even throughout the borough.

⁴ Extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance or different beliefs and faiths. Cabinet Office, (2013). [Tackling Extremism in the UK](#) – London: HM Government

⁵ Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people causes serious damage to property or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use of threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of political, religious or ideological gain. Terrorism Act 2000

Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the council has a duty to notify the National Referral Mechanism (a Home Office body) of potential victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The Act ensures tougher sentencing for human traffickers and provides support mechanisms for victims; it also introduces a defence for victims of slavery and trafficking.

4.8 E-Safety

Children and adults with care and support needs can be easy targets for online grooming with a view to exploiting them, sometimes even without their knowledge. The council takes very seriously the potential for online abuse and exploitation and the potential to defraud vulnerable people online, and works with partner agencies to raise awareness of e-safety within its workforce and the community.

5. Training

The council will ensure all employees, members, and contractors working on behalf of the council, are trained to an appropriate level so they:

- understand safeguarding and the role they play within this;
- recognise the various types of abuse; and
- have knowledge of the procedures used to raise safeguarding concerns with the appropriate agencies and how to access these.

6. Basildon Borough Council Roles and Responsibilities

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everybody, and officers at every level across the organisation have a responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of its safeguarding arrangements, respond to safeguarding concerns, and comply with the council's duties through its own service delivery and provision to promote the welfare of children and adults at risk.

This responsibility also extends to raising concerns or making complaints about the behaviour of staff or volunteers working with children or adults at risk within the organisation through the council's Whistleblowing Procedure.

Role	Responsibilities
Executive Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the profile and embed safeguarding processes, support the policy and promote the development of services to ensure the protection of children and adults at risk within the borough. • Allocate resources to enable responsibilities to be met. • Resolve escalated professional disagreements.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of policy and strategy, issuing operational guidance, promoting good practice and making policy recommendations to Senior Leadership Team. • Ensure safeguarding training is available to meet requirements and the needs of staff. • Submit reports to Senior Leadership Team and relevant Committee(s) to ensure that child and adult protection policy requirements are met. • Representative at multi-agency safeguarding meetings. • Work with key officers to deliver relevant safeguarding responsibilities.
Safeguarding Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate and deliver safeguarding training. • Co-ordinate audits for submission to the Essex Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards. • Provide advice and guidance to staff regarding safeguarding concerns. • Co-ordinate requests for information regarding Serious Adult Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Partnership Learning Reviews, Section 47 and Section 17 enquiries. • Offer advice and assistance to members and support members to make safeguarding referrals as appropriate.
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) process in conjunction with recruiting managers. • Make a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) when a member of staff has acted in a way which may have harmed a child or adult at risk, in liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. • Ensure delivery of corporate training.
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support staff to recognise and understand their roles and responsibilities. • Provide suitable supervision to staff dealing with safeguarding concerns. • Consider safeguarding implications when developing policies and procedures, procuring services on behalf of the council and in their decision-making processes. • Ensure staff are appropriately trained and aware of their responsibilities. • Identify training needs of staff to support them to undertake their duties. • Ensure contractors have the appropriate safeguarding policies in place when procuring services. • Ensure volunteers working on behalf of the council are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. • Ensure reference to the DBS Guide to Eligibility to assess whether a role requires a disclosure.

All Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safeguarding training is undertaken to an appropriate level. • Comply with the Safeguarding Policy and procedures. • Report any concerns through the appropriate referral process. • Report allegations against a member of staff or volunteer through the council's Whistleblowing Procedure. • Seek advice from the Safeguarding Team where necessary.
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any concerns through the appropriate referral process. • Undertake a basic DBS check. • Undertake safeguarding training and refresher at least every 3 years.
Consultants, Contractors and Agency Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with council's Safeguarding arrangements. • Reporting of any concerns through the appropriate referral process. • Reporting of allegations against a member of staff through the council's Whistleblowing Procedure.

All external organisations and contractors providing services to and on behalf of the council are required to comply with the council's Safeguarding Policy. Where appropriate they should have their own Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place that adhere to the SET Safeguarding Adults Guidelines and SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures.

7. Partnership Working

In carrying out its duties, the council works in partnership with other agencies, through the Southend, Essex and Thurrock multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, to ensure the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk⁶ is paramount at all times, whilst maximizing choice, control and inclusion in protecting their human rights. The Council has a duty to co-operate with:

7.1 Essex County Council

Essex County Council has responsibilities as the Children's Services Authority and the Social Services Authority for Essex, and the council will report all safeguarding concerns, incidents and allegations regarding the welfare of a child or adult at risk to them through the appropriate referral mechanisms.

Under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, Adult Social Care has a statutory duty to make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if they reasonably suspect an adult is, or is at risk of, being abused or neglected.

⁶ The term 'adult at risk' is interchangeable with the term 'adult with care and support needs' throughout this document

Similarly, Children's Social Care has duties under The Children Act 1989:

- Under Section 17, a child in need is defined as a child whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health and development without the provision of services. This includes disabled children. The critical factors to be taken into account when deciding whether a child is in need under the Children Act 1989 are what will happen to the child's health or development without services, and the likely effect the services will have on the child's standard of health and development.
- Section 47 introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. There are no absolute criteria on which to rely when judging what constitutes significant harm, however consideration of the severity of ill-treatment may take into account the degree and extent of physical harm; the duration and frequency of abuse and neglect; the extent of pre-meditation, and the presence or degree of threat, coercion, sadism and bizarre or unusual elements.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is specifically involved in cases of concern or allegation that someone working or volunteering with children or adults at risk; has or may have harmed a child or adult at risk, may have committed a criminal offence related to a child or adult at risk, behaved towards a child, children or adults at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm. The LADO will give advice and guidance to the council on how concerns or allegations should be investigated against members of staff or volunteers working with this demographic.

Concerns or allegations will be raised to the LADO through Human Resources in liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer, who will advise on whether a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service is warranted following the outcome of any investigation; such a referral would be a statutory responsibility of the council.

7.2 Essex Police

Essex Police has the responsibility to investigate any allegations or suspicions of criminal offences against a child or adult, conduct joint investigations with partners, gather best evidence to maximise the prospects for prosecuting offenders, along with achieving, with partners, the best protection and support for the person suffering abuse or neglect, including victim support. Essex Police responsibilities for child protection issues are documented within the current SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures, and adults at risk within the SET Safeguarding Adults Guidelines.

7.3 Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB)

Essex Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory multi-agency organisation⁷ bringing together different services and professional groups to safeguard adults with care and support needs across Essex. It also makes sure that arrangements work effectively to identify abuse or inadequate care, help vulnerable people and plan and implement joint preventative strategies.

The ESAB works in conjunction with the Southend and Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Boards to produce the multi-agency SET Safeguarding Adults Guidelines – ensuring consistency of a response to safeguarding adults across the County.

The ESAB has a strategic role that is greater than the sum of the operational duties of the core partners. It oversees and leads adult safeguarding across Essex and will be interested in a range of matters that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.

In some instances where it is considered that there are opportunities for learning and improvement in practice, and in line with the Care Act 2014, the ESAB may convene a Serious Adult Review.

These are based on the criteria set down by the ESAB and are usually convened where an adult with care and support needs has died, or been seriously harmed, as a consequence of harm or neglect, and for whom the local authority (Essex County Council for the Basildon Borough) had responsibility.

7.4 Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB)

Essex Safeguarding Children Board is a multi-agency organisation, which brings together agencies who work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The ESCB fulfils the statutory functions of the Safeguarding Partners⁸ within the Essex local authority area.

The objective of the ESCB is to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the ESCB Assembly for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.

The ESCB works in conjunction with the Southend and Thurrock Safeguarding Children Boards to produce the multi-agency SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures – ensuring consistency of a response to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across the County.

⁷ Within the Care Act 2014

⁸ Safeguarding Partners – Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group which any part of it falls within the local authority area, Chief Officer of police for the police which any part of it falls within the local authority - Children and Social Work Act 2017

The ESCB is responsible, under Children and Social Work Act 2017 to convene a Local Safeguarding Practice Review (LSPR), formerly known as a Serious Case Review. The circumstances for instigating a LSPR are set out in the current multi-agency SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures, a set of procedures used by all agencies who work with children and their families.

On occasions where the LSPR threshold is not met, the ESCB may decide to undertake a Partnership Learning Review, where a child sustains serious harm, abuse or neglect and there are concerns about how organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child.

7.5 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

CCGs, overseen by NHS England, commission most of the hospital and community NHS services in the local areas for which they are responsible; this is the Basildon and Brentwood CCG, for the local area.

Commissioning involves deciding what services are needed for diverse local populations and ensuring that they are provided. All GP practices belong to a CCG, which also includes other health staff, i.e. nurses. 22 Services CCGs commission include:

- Most planned hospital care
- Rehabilitative care
- Urgent and emergency care (including out-of-hours)
- Most community health services
- Mental health and learning disability services

7.6 Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB)

SETDAB is made up of representatives from agencies and organisations working to join up and better facilitate the local authority areas of Southend, Essex and Thurrock's vision to enable everyone to live a life free from all forms of domestic abuse. The SETDAB is responsible for designing and implementing the Domestic Abuse Strategy across the county of Essex. SETDAB provides strategic leadership to address domestic abuse by providing a multi-agency framework, common ethos and co-ordinated approach to innovate, drive change and address domestic abuse.

SETDAB co-ordinate Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) on behalf of the local Community Safety Partnership (Safer Basildon Partnership) and are published on the SETDAB website. Under the Act, SETDAB has a duty to send a copy of DHR reports to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

According to Home Office guidance⁹, a DHR is a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person a) to whom they were related or with whom they had, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship or b) a member of the same household as themselves, held with a view to identifying the lessons learnt from the death.

7.7 Essex Prevent Multi-Agency Group

The Essex Prevent Multi-Agency Group provides strategic oversight, direction and co-ordination of the activities that deliver Prevent work. The Essex Prevent Multi-Agency group meets quarterly and is comprised of representatives of all key agencies charged with delivering Prevent in Essex. Board members include Essex Police Prevent team, an Essex County Council Family Operations Safeguarding Lead, the Essex County Council Schools Safeguarding Advisor, community safety representatives¹⁰ from all district and borough councils, Probation Services and the Youth Offending Team.

8. **Members Roles and Responsibilities**

Alongside everybody else, members are required to be mindful of safeguarding issues they encounter, and report safeguarding concerns to the relevant agency. Safeguarding training is available to support members to recognise and understand the signs of abuse and provide reassurance that the council is meeting its duties.

The lead member for safeguarding is responsible for promoting the safeguarding agenda, representing the council's safeguarding concerns on relevant multi-agency groups and approval of the Safeguarding Policy through the appropriate committee.

9. **Corporate Knowledge**

Corporate Plan Ambitions 2021 - 2024

People. We want Basildon to be home to healthy and active local communities able to support themselves and each other.

Place. We want Basildon to offer a high quality of life for all residents through attractive, liveable, accessible and safe neighbourhoods and towns along with the provision of enduring facilities, green spaces and town centres that meet the needs of the community.

Prosperity. We want Basildon to have a thriving, dynamic and diverse economy where all our communities benefit from increased opportunity and our workforce has the right skills for our local economy and beyond.

⁹ Home Office, (2016). Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews. London: Home Office.

¹⁰ For Basildon this is the Safer Basildon Partnership

The council will provide a community leadership role and work with its partners to pro-actively tackle all forms of abuse, by disseminating public information and offering support and advice to local people who are at risk, and to signpost to the relevant lead agency where any other form of abuse or exploitation is suspected.

We will work through partnership structures to better co-ordinate joint action and secure good quality outcomes locally and in doing so demand good public services to ensure our communities feel safe. The council will work with families and communities, making referrals to other specialist agencies best placed to respond to their needs and concerns where appropriate.

10. Outcomes and Priorities

The council will work to the following policy objectives by 2027:

Outcome: Children, young people and adults at risk are protected against abuse, neglect and/or exploitation.

- Priority: Effective procedures, and support measures in place and available to employees
- Priority: Contractors are aware of their responsibilities
- Priority: Members and volunteers are aware of their responsibilities
- Priority: Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer to ensure governance arrangements, compliance and address areas of concern

Outcome: Council's approach and commitment to Safeguarding is embedded across the organisation.

- Priority: Safeguarding Policy, Strategy and Procedures remain current and available to all staff
- Priority: Safeguarding training available to all staff through Corporate Training Programme and enhanced training opportunities made available, where required, through partner organisations
- Priority: Raise awareness of safeguarding through regular corporate communications
- Priority: Safeguarding performance reports shared with Senior Leadership Team
- Priority: Champion the needs of local communities at relevant safeguarding meetings
- Priority: Raise awareness of learning outcomes resulting from all learning reviews, especially Serious Adult Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews

Outcome: Members and the local community are confident the Council responds to safeguarding concerns.

- Priority: Raise awareness of safeguarding with Members and local communities
- Priority: Information is made available to members of the public through the council's website, including details on how to report safeguarding concerns

Priority: Safeguarding training and awareness session available to Members

11. Links to other Corporate Policies or Partner documents

Key corporate documents linked to this policy include:

Safeguarding Strategy 2022

The Safeguarding Strategy underpinning this policy is supported by operational procedures in line with SET safeguarding arrangements, linking the outcomes with delivery of key activities.

Other documents this policy links to:

- Safeguarding Guide for Employees and Volunteers
- Safeguarding Guide for Contractors
- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2021
- Code of Conduct
- Corporate Plan 2021 – 2024
- Dealing with Domestic Abuse – PMP 6.16
- Disciplinary Procedure (PMP Ref. 5.2)
- Economic Development Policy
- Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Policy 2019-2022
- Health and Wellbeing Policy 2021-2025
- Housing Strategy 2018 – 2023
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy 2019 – 2024
- Inclusion & Diversity Policy 2020-2024
- Information Management Policy
- Investigation Procedure (PMP Ref. 5.3)
- Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Policy 2019-2024
- Local Plan
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Procedure (PMP Ref. 7.3)
- Modern Slavery Statement (pending)
- Protecting Employees from Violence & Aggression at Work Including Lone Working (P03)
- Recruitment & Selection Procedure (Safer Recruitment) (PMP Ref. 1.1.1)
- Responding to Domestic Abuse Policy

- Safe Working Practice When Working With Children and Young People Who Are Employees Procedure (PMP Ref. 5.12)
- Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2019-2024
- Whistleblowing Procedure (PMP Ref. 5.9)

Other external documents this policy links to:

- [DBS Guide to Eligibility](#)
- [Southend Essex Thurrock \(SET\) Safeguarding Adults Guidelines Version 6 – July 2020](#)
- [Southend Essex Thurrock \(SET\) Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures – October 2019](#)

12. Bibliography

Home Office, (2016). *Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews*. London: Home Office. Online Available at: **[DHR-Statutory-Guidance-161206.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)** [Last Accessed 02.12.2021].

Cabinet Office, (2013). *Tackling Extremism in the UK*. London: HM Government Cabinet Office. Online Available at: **[ETF FINAL.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)** [Last Accessed 09.12.2021].

13. Appendices

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

Appendix 2: Relevant Legislation

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CS	Criminal Exploitation
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DPA	Data Protection Act
ESAB	Essex Safeguarding Adults Board
ESCB	Essex Safeguarding Children Board
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FM	Forced Marriage
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GP	General Practitioner
HM (Government)	Her Majesty's Government
HBA	Honour Based Abuse
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
NHS	National Health Service
PMP	People Management Procedures
SET	Southend, Essex and Thurrock
SETDAB	Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board

Appendix 2: Relevant Legislation¹¹

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
 Care Act 2014
 The Children Act 1989 and 2004
 Children and Social Work Act 2017
 The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
 Crime and Disorder Act 1998
 Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015
 Data Protection Act 2018 (including Amendment 85, General Data Protection Regulations)
 Domestic Abuse Act 2021
 Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities across England: Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse, including children in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services
 Domestic Abuse Support (Relevant Accommodation) Draft regulations 2021
 Domestic Abuse (Local Authority Strategies) Draft regulations 2021
 Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims Act 2004
 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme and guidance (Clare's Law)
 Equality Act 2010
 Homelessness Act 2002
 Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
 The Housing Act 1996
 Human Rights Act 1998
 Licensing Act 2003
 Mental Capacity Act 2005
 Mental Health Act 1983
 Modern Slavery Act 2015
 Offences Against the Person Act 1861
 Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
 Protection from Harassment 1997
 Serious Crime Act 2015
 Sexual Offences Act 2003
 Stalking Protection Act 2019
 Terrorism Act 2000
 Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011
 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

¹¹ It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive

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