

CWC Safeguarding Statement

The purpose of this statement is to reinforce the safeguarding message to City of Wolverhampton Council employees, elected members and volunteers and to provide understanding of current and proposed safeguarding activity across the council.

In so doing, this statement supports in protecting and promoting the welfare of the children, young people and adults using or receiving services provided or commissioned by the council and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

This safeguarding statement affirms for council employees, elected members and volunteers:

- What is expected from them to protect and safeguard children, young people and adults at risk
- That they are able to safely voice any concerns through an established procedure
- That all reports of abuse or potential abuse are dealt with in a serious and effective manner
- That appropriate training is available
- That robust 'safer' recruitment procedures are in place.

Safeguarding Statement

The City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to:

- Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk from abuse
- Providing services which are respectful and inclusive
- Enabling children, young people and adults at risk to contribute to, and inform, the safeguarding interventions they receive
- Responding promptly, sensitively and appropriately when there are suspicions of abuse
- Acting in the best interests of the child, young person or adults at risk
- Preventing unsuitable people from working with children, young people and adults at risk through robust 'safer recruitment' procedures
- Working closely with and sharing information with partner agencies to deliver services which will keep children and adults at risk safe
- Embedding best practice to prevent abuse and create safe and healthy environments to reduce situations where abuse or allegations of abuse could occur
- Establishing appropriate governance structures, made up with delegates from appropriate departments across the council to monitor safeguarding activity and make necessary improvements
- Ensuring all staff and Members aware of the potential indicators of abuse and neglect and be clear about what to do if they have concerns
- Providing a range of safeguarding training in order to meet individual needs
- Ensuring contracts reflect safeguarding expectations.

City of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Activity

The City of Wolverhampton Council has a statutory responsibility to safeguard children and adults at risk and achieves much of this via the operational activity of Adult and Children's Social Care and the Safeguarding Service. Whilst these services provide, and promote safeguarding, the council has sought to extend its safeguarding remit and demonstrate its commitment across the departments.

Private Hire: Wolverhampton recognise the role taxi drivers have as 'the eyes and ears of the community'. This has led to proactive input with this group in raising their awareness of safeguarding. Mandatory Child Sexual Exploitation training is provided to all licenced private hire drivers within Wolverhampton and safeguarding questions are part of the final licensing test. Wolverhampton licencing representatives attend the regional licencing forum and the work they have undertaken regarding safeguarding has been adopted as best practice.

Licensed Premises: A series of joint initiatives have been progressed with Licensing and Safeguarding services wherein licensed premises checks have included the identification of potential safeguarding abuses including the employment of underage children, and the use of premises to groom potential victims. The safeguarding service is an active member of Responsible Authorities Forum to ensure consideration is given to potential safeguarding matters which may impact on the decision making of the group.

People/Place Safeguarding Forum: This forum was established to ensure departments within the Place Directorate have an understanding of safeguarding developments and the potential impact on the delivery of their services. This has resulted in the creation of discreet safeguarding tools, a review of training needs for staff with limited computer access, and exploration of safeguarding thresholds and identification of risk.

Restorative Practice: Originally introduced within Children Services, Restorative Practice aims to improve safeguarding service delivery and provide input which is inclusive, transparent supportive and challenging. This approach has been promoted across the safeguarding partnership and is recognised as a positive model by which all council activity can be delivered.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: The council has significantly contributed to the creation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which covers both children and Adults at risk. The MASH is housed in the Civic Centre and provides a secure environment for all partners and the information they hold. The MASH is the 'front door' for referrals where there are concerns about children or adults at risk and it is here that decisions are made regarding the level of support that is required for those for whom there are concerns.

Planning: Changes in legislation have resulted in the introduction of new planning regulations and the determination of the granting of planning permissions. The council has noted the impact on the creation of new care homes and supported accommodation provision in the city and the need to support new providers in

understanding their safeguarding responsibilities. This has resulted in closer working with the planning department, safeguarding and planning applicants.

Children's Accommodation Provider Forum: To promote best practice, share Wolverhampton's safeguarding expectations and encourage consistent practice the council has worked closely with West Midlands Police to create a Children's Care home Providers Forum.

Mandatory Training: Safeguarding training is provided in a number of guises; via advice notes, face to face training and online activity; and may be basic or specialist. The City of Wolverhampton has determined that safeguarding training is mandatory for all officers and members and is reflective of differing roles and responsibilities.

Community Engagement: The council has promoted the creation of a series of Champions across the city who support in a variety of aspects of safeguarding by raising awareness, delivering training, offering advice and contributing to wider partnership activity. These champions come from a different departments and job roles.