

Date of Meeting	17 th January 2007
Title of Report	Child Protection Policy
Portfolio	Leisure and Economy
Link to Corporate Priorities	Leisure and Economy
Key Decision	NO
Executive Workplan Ref	B357
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

This report seeks approval from the Executive for the Child Protection Policy.

The Council provides a range of services and activities that impact on Children & Young People. As part of this work it is essential that the Council has an agreed approach to safeguarding children and young people from potential abuse as well as to protect staff and volunteers who work for the District Council.

The Child Protection Policy sets out the principles and policy statements that the Council should adhere to when working with Children and Young People. The Policy also sets out where further information can be found and what to do should any information regarding abuse be shared by a young person with a member of staff.

The Council is not an investigative or intervention agency, this duty lies with Wiltshire County Council but as some of the Councils staff are in regular contact with children and young people it is important that the Council has a clear policy on this issue.

Officer Recommendations

It is recommended that:

The Executive approves the Child Protection Policy

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES

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1. Introduction

1.1 This report seeks approval from the Executive for the Child Protection Policy.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

2.1 Option 1: It is recommended that the Executive approves the Child Protection Policy

2.1.1 Approving the Child Protection Policy will ensure that the Council has in place a framework for working with Children and Young People effectively and safely. It is essential that the Council has an agreed approach to safeguarding children and young people from potential abuse as well as to protect staff and volunteers who work for the District Council.

2.1.2 The Council is not an investigative or intervention agency, this duty lies with Wiltshire County Council but as some of the Councils staff are in regular contact with children and young people, it is important that the Council has a clear policy on this issue

2.1.1 For the Council to fulfil its continued ambition of listening to and working with Children and Young People, a Child Protection Policy needs to be in place to support this work.

3. Background Information

3.1 The Council works directly with Children and Young People on a regular basis through consultation events and projects such as the Young People's Council. Officers can also come into contact with children and young people through the provision of other services such as Housing and customer services.

3.2 The Council is a member of the Wiltshire Children and Young People's Trust board and as a result is committed to supporting the delivery of the Children's Plan. As part of the plan there is a vision to value Children & Young People and encourage all services and communities to support and safeguard them.

3.3 In line with best practice models there is an expectation from funders such as the National Lottery that the Council has an effective Child Protection policy in place. Some specific awards such as the recent National Lottery for play projects require authorities awarded grants to have such a policy in place.

3.4 The Council previously adopted a Child Protection Policy in 1998. However, since this time a number of changes in legislation have occurred, and young people are now accessing a wider range of council services which has led to the need to develop an up to date Child Protection Policy.

3.5 As part of the work to develop this strategy the following stakeholders have commented and endorsed the proposed policy:

- WCC Social Services – Child Protection specialist
- WCC Youth Development Service
- NWDC Human Resources Department

4: Community & Environmental Implications

- 4.1 Working in partnership with communities can add value and support improved service delivery. Ensuring this is done within effective guidelines will support the Council in working across all aspects of the community.

5: Human Resource Implications

- 5.1 Adopting the Child Protection Policy will require the Council to ensure that staff who come into contact with Children and Young People on a regular process are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure Check. It will also be essential to put in place any appropriate training or induction processes should they be required.

6: Equalities & Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Working across all of the Communities in North Wiltshire ensures that the Council can run and develop services that meet the needs of the Communities. As part of this young people are a key part of the community and ensuring that safe practices and clear guidance is in place will both support and protect staff when working with this group.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1: North Wiltshire District Council Child Protection Policy
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Child Protection Policy	Arts & Leisure Sub Committee – 5 th February 1998	72