

**MEMBER PROTOCOL ON SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE & LEGAL
SERVICES**

AGENDA ITEM: 13

Reason for this Report

1. To consider a revised draft of the Protocol which aims to provide guidance and advice to elected Members on their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

Background

2. In January 2016 the Council adopted a Protocol on the Role of Elected Members in Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults ('the Protocol'), in line with the recommendations of the Standards and Ethics Committee, following an Independent Review into the role of Members in dealing with parent's complaints and acting as advocate in child protection proceedings.
3. The Protocol aims to provide guidance and advice to elected Members on their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

Issues

4. The Protocol has been independently reviewed and updated, following extensive discussion with Members, to ensure it remains fit for purpose. Flowcharts have been incorporated to clarify the process for Members to make a safeguarding referral or to raise other safeguarding concerns.
5. In January 2020, Council considered and approved an ordinary resolution which welcomed the independent review of the Members' Safeguarding Protocol and put forward proposals in relation to the remit of the review. It was also resolved that any recommendations from the independent review would be considered by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Cabinet, prior to submission to full Council for approval.

6. The Standards and Ethics Committee considered the revised draft Protocol at its meeting on 30th September and recommended clarification of certain sections, including the sections relating to advocacy and disclosure of information about individual cases. The Monitoring Officer was authorised to amend the draft Protocol, in consultation with the Chair, having regard to comments made by the Committee, and to submit the revised Protocol to full Council for approval.
7. In order to reinforce the importance and effectiveness of the Protocol, the Standards and Ethics Committee recommended that the approved Protocol should be incorporated within the Constitution and the Cardiff Undertaking, which will be included within its recommendations to full Council.
8. The revised draft Protocol, with appended flowcharts, is attached as **Appendix A**, for any comments or suggested amendments Members may wish to make.
9. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee is due to consider the revised draft Protocol at its meeting on 9th November 2020. Any issues which may be raised by the scrutiny committee will be reported to Members at the Cabinet meeting.
10. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is due to consider the revised draft Protocol at its meeting on 17th November, prior to its submission to full Council for approval at the Annual Council meeting on 26th November 2020. Any issues raised by the advisory committee will be included within the report to full Council.

Legal Implications

11. Relevant legal implications are set out in the body of the report and in the Protocol at **Appendix A**.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the revised draft Protocol on the Role of Members in Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults, attached at **Appendix A**; and
2. Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards and Ethics Committee, to make any necessary amendments to the draft Protocol, prior to its submission to full Council for approval.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

13 November 2020

Appendices:

Appendix A: revised draft Protocol – The Role of Elected Members in Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults

Background papers:

Standards and Ethics Committee report, 'Member Protocol on Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults', December 2015 and September 2020

Council report, 'Member Protocol on Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults', January 2016