

ANNUAL COUNCIL

26th NOVEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE & LEGAL SERVICES

MEMBER PROTOCOL ON SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ADULTS

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 parents' 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. Full Council considered and approved an ordinary resolution in January 2020, 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 draft Protocol to full Council for approval.
7. In order to reinforce the importance and effectiveness of the Protocol, the Standards and Ethics Committee has recommended that the approved Protocol should be incorporated within the Constitution and the Cardiff Undertaking. A separate report on the Cardiff Undertaking is presented under agenda item 6.
8. The revised draft Protocol was circulated to members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee (following the cancellation of the committee's meeting scheduled for 9th November 2020). The feedback received was positive, commenting that the revised draft Protocol was comprehensive.
9. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee considered and agreed the revised draft Protocol at its meeting on 17th November 2020.
10. Cabinet considered the revised draft Protocol at its meeting on 19th November and were supportive of it.
11. The revised draft Protocol (with appended flowcharts) recommended for approval and adoption by full Council is attached as **Appendix A**.

Legal Implications

12. Relevant legal implications are set out in the Protocol at **Appendix A**.

Financial Implications

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

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve and adopt the revised draft Protocol on the Role of Members in Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults, attached at **Appendix A**; and

2. Agree that the approved Protocol should be incorporated within Part 5 of the Constitution.

Davina Fiore
Director of Governance & Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

19th 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

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee report, 'Member Protocol on Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults', 17th November 2020

Cabinet report, 'Member Protocol on Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults', 17th November 2020

Minutes of Council meeting, January 2020

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