

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policies
Committee : Services Committee
Date : 06 December 2021
Author : Sarah Gregson, Communities Manager

1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report introduces the revised Safeguarding Children Policy and Adults At Risk Policy for approval

2. Background:

- 2.1. A recent review of the eligibility criteria for Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Checks (EDBS) has revealed some required changes to both Salisbury City Council's (SCC) Safeguarding Children Policy (DOC73519) and SCC's Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy (DOC73322)
- 2.2. The inclusion of the DBS Update Service for online checks of DBS certificates in the council's HR procedures must also be incorporated into these policies
- 2.3. The revised policies set out DBS check criteria and procedures to support safeguarding in both contexts.

3. Key Changes to the Policies

- 3.1. The changes outlined below have been made to:
 - 3.1.1. Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy; Sections 10 & 11
 - 3.1.2. Safeguarding Children Policy; Sections 9 & 10
- 3.2. The policies now reflect DBS eligibility changes which mean that staff or volunteers are only eligible for EDBS if they:
 - 3.2.1. Are leading activity for Children or Adults at Risk
 - 3.2.2. May be called upon to lead activity or take responsibility for with Children or Adults at Risk in the course
- 3.3. The policies now state that staff and volunteers are required to acquire an Standard DBS (SDBS) only, if they
 - 3.3.1. Support activities for Children or Adults at Risk, but will never be responsible for them or left in charge of a child or vulnerable adult, may simply come into contact with children or Adults At Risk in a public setting are now required to gain an Standard DBS check (SDBS)
- 3.4. The policies now state that where a role does not meet the eligibility criteria of the SDBS, a Basic DBS (BDBS) may be sought.
- 3.5. A link to the government eligibility criteria is now included in the policy along with a stated responsibility for SCC to assess each role against this criteria.
- 3.6. The requirement for all staff to join the DBS update service is now included in both policies
- 3.7. The External Staff / Bought in Staff" sections of both policies now include the possibility of using the Update service for EDBS status verification.

3.8. A change to the title of the Adults at Risk Policy is also proposed to align titles of the “Safeguarding Children”

3.8.1. From “Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy”.

3.8.2. To “Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy”.

4. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee

4.1. Approve the amendments to the Safeguarding Children Policy and the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy with regards DBS eligibility and the use of the online update service

4.2. Approve the change to the title of the Adults at Risk Policy

5. Wards Affected: All

6. Background papers:

6.1. Safeguarding Children Policy – Doc 73519

6.2. Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy – Doc 73322

7. Implications:

7.1. **Financial:** Minimal cost differences where additional roles require DBS checks or move from one level of check to another. E.g. £17 difference in cost between an enhanced and standard DBS

7.2. **Legal:** Nil in relation to this report

7.3. **Personnel:** Nil in relation to this report

7.4. **Environmental Impact:** Nil in relation to this report

7.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** Nil in relation to this report