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| Subject: | Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022 - Consultation Results and Analysis |
| Date: | 18th November, 2022 |
| Reporting Officer: | David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS |
| Contact Officers: | Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager Anthony McPeake, Safeguarding Compliance Manager |

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| Restricted Reports | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | |
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
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| 1.1 | <p>This purpose of this report is to finalise the new Safeguarding All Ages Policy post public consultation and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. To provide an overview of the responses received.ii. To provide details on any changes, amendments or written response in response to the consultationiii. To note that the final policy has been presented to CMT and JNCC. Both panels have supported the progression to implementation.iv. To note and support the offer of training in Adult Safeguarding on 23rd November for Elected members and Senior staff.v. To note the expected launch date of 15th January 2023vi. To approve the policy for ratification by the Council. |

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| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to note the progress made to date and approve the Safeguarding Policy. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <p data-bbox="306 376 421 407"><u>Context</u></p> <p data-bbox="201 479 1514 663">3.1 “Safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility, and safeguarding all ages is important to us. The Council recognises everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, or wherever it occurs, harm caused to children, young people or adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable.”</p> <p data-bbox="201 730 1514 864">3.2 Safeguarding has always been a consideration for the Council. In July 2021 a report was presented to CMT to outline the process and ongoing strategic and practical developments to improve practise and assurance across the council’s areas of responsibility.</p> <p data-bbox="201 931 1514 1115">3.3 The main area for improvement was to review the current policy in place since 2009 and to replace it with an up-to-date policy including robust assurance and accountability. While COVID and the necessary emergency response delayed the project, the policy went out to public consultation between May 2022 and August 2022.</p> <p data-bbox="306 1182 798 1214"><u>Results of the Public Consultation:</u></p> <p data-bbox="201 1281 1514 1370">3.4 This is an overview of the salient points. A more detailed report is available in the attachments.</p> <p data-bbox="201 1438 1514 1662">3.5 Over the 14-week period the number of visitors were as follows:</p> <ul data-bbox="357 1527 1139 1662" style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Engaged Visitors (participated in some way) • 40 Informed Visitors (visited multiple pages/Contributed) • 156 Aware Visitors (visited at least one page) <p data-bbox="201 1729 1514 1863">3.6 None of the respondents suggested any changes to the policy content and the predominant responses were positive. The small response level was expected due to the specialist nature of the policy.</p> <p data-bbox="306 1886 823 1917"><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="201 1930 1514 2042">3.7 There are financial implications associated with the policy implementation and successful safeguarding assurance across the organisation, for example, the re-vetting cost for Access NI checks (every three years), and the officer and member training programme.</p> |

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| <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> | <p>While these are council wide, they have been included in the CNS budget growth estimates.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The EQIA and the RNA have been completed and were part of the public consultation process. As the policy is a positive policy, any impact will be for the better in terms of both equality and Rural needs. Both documents are tabled alongside the final draft policy for consideration.</p> <p>The Consultation responses did not suggest any changes to the equality impact or the Rural needs impact.</p> |
| <p>4.0</p> | <p>Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>Appendix 1: Summary - Safeguarding all ages Draft Policy and Procedures 2022</p> <p>Appendix 2: Safeguarding all ages Draft Policy 2022</p> <p>Appendix 3: EQIA</p> <p>Appendix 4: Rural Needs Impact assessment.</p> <p>Appendix 5: Detailed Overview of consultation response</p> |