



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Executive: 18.06.25

Wards affected: All wards

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### Safeguarding Update

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Report of Director Community Services

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To advise Executive of work the safeguarding team are doing to ensure we meet our statutory safeguarding duty as a local authority. The report highlights completed and planned work to increase resilience and effectiveness of our safeguarding functions, which will ultimately help to ensure our communities are protected from harm.
- 1.2. To update Executive on current performance data in relation to the work carried out by the safeguarding team.

#### **2. Recommendation**

That Executive:

- 2.1 Acknowledge and endorse the contents of this report.
- 2.2 Acknowledge the continued significant increase in the number of referrals being received by the safeguarding team.
- 2.3 Recognise the contribution of all the Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs) across the authority who have ensured that we have taken appropriate action to safeguard children and adults.

### **3. Background to the report**

- 3.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure the duty of care for children and adults with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse or neglect across all its services. The council have a legal duty under the following legislation:

-The legal obligations concerning children and young people are underpinned by Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, including as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Further guidance is available from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

-Under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, the local authority has a duty to make enquiries itself or cause others to make enquiries in cases where it has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of abuse or neglect.

- 3.2 As an organisation we could be involved in and subject to the following which are led by and published by the LLR Safeguarding Partnership Board:

-Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) - an independent review into a case where an adult with care and support needs has died or been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. SARs are carried out where Safeguarding Adults Boards identify there are concerns about how organisations worked together or there may be learning to support improvements in safeguarding.

- Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is an independent review into a case where a child has been seriously harmed or has died and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. CSPRs are carried out where partner organisations identify there may be learning from the case to improve the safeguarding and welfare of children, particularly regarding how organisations work together. The aim of a CSPR is to establish any lessons learnt from the case and to identify how these have, or will be, acted upon and lead to sustainable improvements to practice and the prevention of death, serious injury or harm to children and young people.

- Domestic Homicide Review

### **4. Quarter 3 & 4 Achievements**

- 4.1 The Senior Safeguarding Officer is continuing to attend key partnership delivery forums such as JAG (Joint Action Group), Youth JAG and Endeavour to provide these groups with help and advice from a safeguarding perspective. They have provided support on appropriate high-risk cases within other departments and are currently involved in 3 MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) meeting
- 4.2 The Senior Safeguarding Officer attends Quarterly County DSO Group meetings to discuss district safeguarding concerns, best practice and working together models. The Senior Safeguarding Officer also attends the Leicester,

Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership to consider Policy and Procedures and the LLR Strategic Suicide Audit Prevention Group for allied professionals as a district representative.

- 4.3 Ongoing support is being offered by the safeguarding team to support colleagues to hold and attend MDT meetings for their own cases, utilising a guidance document for MDT meetings that was created and shared with SLT in a previous report. Recent changes to process include the LLR update that VARM (Vulnerable Adult Risk Management) meetings have been replaced with the Self Neglect and Hoarding Guidance ([4.2.3 Self-Neglect and Hoarding – LLR SAB Multi-Agency Policies & Procedures Resource](#)). This information has been cascaded to colleagues and ongoing support is being given by the Senior Safeguarding Officer for high-risk cases.
- 4.4 Updates to our Mental Health Signposting document and internal resources (digital and online) have been put into place and shared with colleagues within Q3/4, with changes such as Neighbourhood Mental Health Cafes and text support option for the NHS Mental Health Central Access Point (Please see Appendix A).
- 4.5 Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 there was a total of 434 safeguarding referral forms submitted, with a total of 503 people referred. This is an increase of 96 forms received compared to 2023-24. 207 of these referrals occurred in Q3/4.
- 4.6 Comparing data from 2021-22 through to 2024-25, there has been an increase of 247% in referrals being received by the safeguarding team annually. This reflects the increased awareness of safeguarding due to a robust internal training programme and active support from the safeguarding team. This is a continued increase of note.
- 4.7 There is a continuation in the number of referrals where mental health is a concern. For 2024-25, 71% of referrals noted a mental health concern. Two of the Councils Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO's) (Senior Safeguarding Officer and Communities Manager) have taken on additional responsibilities and currently also lead on Neighbourhood Mental Health Co-ordination work on behalf of Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT NHS). These dual roles ensure that partnership working with mental health services supports council colleagues with ensuring residents have appropriate pathways to access support and advice and champions a truly integrated approach for the borough.
- 4.8 Referrals continue to suggest further demand within the borough for adults, with them accounting for 82% of all referrals. This is thought to be, in part due to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on our residents. The safeguarding team continue to work closely with welfare support colleagues, to ensure that residents are supported holistically.
- 4.9 A full safeguarding statistical report has been produced to report appropriate statistics in relation to safeguarding for 2024/25. (Please see Appendix B)

## **5.0 Some key areas of work for Q1 2025-26**

- 5.1 A safeguarding service action plan is in place to drive delivery.
- 5.2 Areas of work that are now core business will continue.
- 5.3 Training for further DSOs across the authority to ensure resilience of the safeguarding service.
- 5.4 Work will begin on the 3-year refresh of both adult and child safeguarding policies.

## **6.0 Other key areas of work**

- 6.1 A key theme that will continue to be worked on is the importance staff and members place on safeguarding and embedding the culture across the organisation that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This is an area that we would welcome ongoing support on from SLT and members.
- 6.2 Further face to face safeguarding training for new starters and refresh of knowledge for front line officers to be held in June/July 2025.

## **7. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules**

- 7.1 The report is to be taken in open session.

## **8. Financial implications [CS]**

- 8.1 All safeguarding work is being carried out within existing resources.

## **9. Legal implications [ST]**

- 9.1 None

## **10. Corporate Plan implications**

- 10.1 This report relates to the priority ambition of 'People' within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2024-28.

## **11. Consultation**

- 11.1 Relevant council teams have been consulted in the formulation of this report.

## **12. Risk implications**

- 12.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

12.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

12.3 The following significant risks associated with this report were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Continual increases in safeguarding referrals reduces the resilience of the safeguarding team	Support recruitment of further DSOs	RB/SLT
	Incentivisation for DSOs	RB

### 13. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

13.1 The services within this report are delivered for all residents across the borough.

Data is collected as at Appendix B to inform service delivery as well as assurance that services are accessible to all.

### 14. Climate implications

14.1 Work will be delivered to limit carbon impact where possible, for example virtual methods of engagement and paperless systems.

### 15. Corporate implications

15.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

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Background papers:

Appendix A - Mental Health Support Cards (Adults) 2025

## Appendix B - Safeguarding Statistical Report 2024-25

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