

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING
DATE:	21ST JULY 2011
REPORT NO.	CFO/078/11
REPORTING OFFICER:	ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER PHIL GARRIGAN, EXTN. 4644 EMMA DODD, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT MANAGER. EXTN. 4609
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	DAG MEMBERS KNOWSLEY POLICY AND PROCEDURES GROUP WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING JOHN CURTIS, DIRECTOR OF KNOWLEDGE & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DEB APPLETON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT GROUP MANAGER OAKFORD
SUBJECT:	DRAFT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX A	TITLE:	DRAFT SAFEGUARDING POLICY
APPENDIX B	TITLE:	EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

ATTACHED – HARD COPIES

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members of the replacement of the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's (MFRS) Child Protection Policy with the MFRS Safeguarding Policy which includes safeguarding adults and children.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the contents of the report and agree to the adoption of the Safeguarding Policy (attached as Appendix A).
3. Adoption of the Policy will ensure that any concerns that staff may have in relation to abuse or suspected abuse, of vulnerable adults or children is managed and communicated swiftly and appropriately in line with the relevant Service Instructions and the Local Authorities safeguarding arrangements.

Introduction & Background

4. As part of the annual review of MFRS's policies and following consultation with Knowsley and Wirral Safeguarding it was identified that an explicit safeguarding policy was required to reflect the multi agency policy, procedures and practical guidance necessary to protect vulnerable adults and children from abuse.
5. The proposed new policy reflects those issues and the issues encountered by staff working with children, young people and adults, ensuring that children, young people and adults who engage with MFRS can do so safely and with confidence.
6. The Policy is based on the following multi agency safeguarding principles:
 - Actively work together;
 - Actively promote;
 - Act in a way which supports the rights of the individual;
 - Recognise people who are unable to make their own decisions;
 - Recognise that the right to self determination can involve risk;
 - Ensures the safety of the vulnerable;
 - Ensure that the law and statutory requirements are known and used appropriately.
7. The Policy and related Service Instructions have been endorsed by each Local Authority and reflect their safeguarding framework.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. A Full Equality Impact Assessment is attached (Appendix B). The safeguarding referrals will be monitored by Knowledge & Information Management to identify any disproportionate impact on children, young people and adults with protected characteristics.

Risk Management Implications

9. All Youth Engagement, Threat Response Group and Community Fire Safety staff have undertaken safeguarding training in accordance with their roles.
10. Further training for MFRS designated officers has been arranged. The Youth Engagement Manager and Community Fire Safety Manager have undertaken the designated training officer already.
11. Learn Pro will be used to disseminate E Learning training to all other staff.
12. The recording of Safeguarding concerns will be addressed via the Community Safety Information Management System. This will allow quarterly reports to be sent to the Diversity Action Group.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

13. Safeguarding training is generally provided free of charge by the respective Local Authority.
14. Any additional bespoke training which is not provided by the Local Authority and therefore incurs a cost will be met from Community Safety Directorate budgets.

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

15. The policy change will help ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities are afforded the right to live their lives free from abuse and neglect and to live safely within their home and community.
16. This Policy will ensure that the appropriate risk management and safeguarding procedures are followed.

Contribution to Achieving Our Purpose:

“To Make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community”

17. The revised policy will contribute to our purpose to be well managed and effective.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Safeguarding Policy (Appendix A)
SI Safeguarding Children and Young People
SI Safeguarding Adults
SI Safeguarding Designated Officers
Full Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix B)