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What is Corporate Safeguarding?

'Corporate Safeguarding' describes the arrangements in place that a Council makes to ensure that all of its employees are aware of their responsibilities and play their part in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and adults who may be at risk of harm. It is the Council's responsibility to ensure that all staff, volunteers and contractors are aware of safeguarding in their day-to-day work and know when and how to raise concerns.

This 7 minute briefing aims to help everyone who works for council services understand how they can play a crucial role in safeguarding children and to meet their responsibilities in preventing the abuse of children and adults.



WG Corporate Safeguarding Good Practice Guidance



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Neighbourhoods & Communities

Children, young people and adults live, learn, work, play and visit a wide range of settings in the community. Staff, volunteers and contractors in these areas should be aware how to identify safeguarding concerns as they go about their day-to-day jobs. Examples include:

- **Waste Management** – refuse collectors go to the same houses and communities every week and can notice when a child might be suffering or at risk of abuse
- **Parks and Gardens** – staff or contractors can be alert to places where children and young people congregate, and identify concerning behaviours that might indicate some form of abuse or exploitation is occurring.

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Leadership and culture

Examples of where corporate safeguarding is most likely to be successful:

- Clear corporate safeguarding leadership, throughout the organisation
- Systems in place which facilitates staff to act safely and proportionately in raising concerns through appropriate channels.
- An embedded culture of safeguarding awareness and challenge at Cabinet and management board level
- The visibility of all senior executives in championing safeguarding
- Effective partner and community leadership, focused on shared safeguarding ownership across wider local and regional networks and partnerships

To see the full guidance [click here](#)

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Neighbourhoods & Communities (continued...)

- **Environmental Health** – in the course of their day-to-day work inspecting premises, officers can consider safeguarding issues they may come across, in licensed premises, hotels or people's homes.
- **Housing Officers** – Housing Officers, who have a unique insight into the lives of families and can spot signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Through local knowledge each Council has an opportunity to develop a good understanding of what actions may be most effective in a given neighbourhood.

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Governance & Performance Management

A corporate approach to safeguarding ensures that the responsibility for protecting children, young people and adults from harm, is embedded across the whole Council. In this respect, a number of Councils have established a range of well-developed practical materials, including self-assessment audit tools, to enable them to capture the effectiveness of their corporate safeguarding arrangements.

Good performance management systems enable the Council to analyse information from each of its directorates, on workforce training, departmental reporting regarding concerns identified, and emerging thematic or Council-wide challenges.

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Procurement, Licensing and Planning

When commissioning services, Councils should give careful consideration as to what safeguarding measures are required of contractors or service providers. Examples include DBS checks, Safeguarding policies and training, ethical supply chain practices and a Modern slavery policy.

Good practice in Licensing & Planning includes Councils working with others, such as Trading Standards, Health Boards, Regional Safeguarding Boards including children and adult safeguarding teams. Using local knowledge from community workers and safeguarding teams, can support licensing and planning departments to identify premises of concern and those children or adults associated with them who may be at risk.

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Local businesses & services

Central to the effectiveness of safeguarding of children and adults is the ability of local Councils to work with a wide range of local businesses and business leaders.

Hotels, bars and restaurants, late night takeaways, off licences, cinemas or other licensed premises may come into contact with children and adults at risk of harm. People who work in these industries are in a unique position to spot the signs of exploitation and other forms of abuse.

Good practice in this area encourages licensed premises and other businesses to require their staff to undertake safeguarding training.