



Barrow Borough Council

Safeguarding Children Policy

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Introduction

- 1.1 Barrow Borough Council has duties under The Children Act 2004, namely to ensure their functions, including any services contracted out to others, are discharged with consideration for the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and they co-operate with other partners in the improvement of children's well-being which includes the prevention of abuse and neglect.
- 1.2 Barrow Borough Council is committed to fulfilling this legal and moral duty and will ensure all children are protected and kept safe from harm whilst engaged in services organised by the Council and its delivery partners.
- 1.3 This policy will:
 - Highlight Barrow Borough Councils' commitment to the protection of all children.
 - Outline the working arrangements that Barrow Borough Council has in place in order to fulfil the relevant statutory duties set out in the Children Act 2004.
 - Signpost staff to relevant areas of a procedural manual which provides detailed operational guidance on identifying a safeguarding issue, how to report a concern and the sharing of information with other responsible service providers.
- 1.4 It is not the responsibility of any one individual to decide whether abuse has taken place, however it is the responsibility of every individual to take appropriate action where there is a risk of harm, abuse or neglect to a child. All employees and elected Members should follow this policy and the associated procedures when reporting a safeguarding concern.
- 1.5 A copy of this policy will be issued to all contractors and volunteers working for/or representing Barrow Borough Council.

The Legal Duties

- 2.1 The Children Act 2004 builds upon frameworks established by the Children Act 1989 and forms part of a wider government strategy for improving children's lives. The government's vision is to facilitate the best outcome possible for every child. [The Children Act 2004](#)

The government's guidance document 'Working together to Safeguard Children 2015' adds detail to the statutory duties set out in the Children Act 2004.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015](#)

The core principles of both the Act and the guidance is the protection of children and promotion of their wellbeing through an integrated approach by all statutory agencies that work with children. Cumbria County Council is the principal authority responsible for Children Services. However, other agencies such as the Police, the NHS and district councils are required to consider safeguarding when planning and delivering or commissioning their services.

- 2.2 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the relevant duty:

"Any person or body to whom the duty applies must ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The duty requires the council to ensure that:

- a) Its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and;

b) Services they contract out to others have regard to the need to Safeguard and promote the welfare of children.”

2.3 Barrow Borough Council discharges a number of functions which impact upon the lives of children and families. This requires some employees, elected Members, contractors and volunteers to work in close proximity to children as part of their daily duties. Consequently the Council accepts it has a significant role to play in safeguarding children and the promotion of their welfare.

Statutory and discretionary services discharged by Barrow Borough Council include Licensing; Planning; Environmental Health; Council Housing; Homelessness; Parks; Enforcement; Leisure Management, Tourism and Customer Services.

2.4 Barrow Borough Council has in place a number of strategic, HR, Health and Safety and service led policies which support the Council in its legal and moral duty to safeguard children.

2.5 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on agencies to cooperate with the each other and the Local Authority in a collective effort to improve the lives of children.

As part of a coordinated approach Barrow Borough Council will, where necessary, work with all other statutory agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. Where appropriate, and within legal guidelines, Barrow Borough Council will share information with other agencies to protect children from harm.

2.6 Providing early help is the most effective way to safeguard and improve the lives of children. Early help means providing support at a local level, as soon as a problem emerges in a child’s life. The aim of early help is to improve outcomes for the child and prevent further problems arising.

Where possible, Barrow Borough Council will work with partners to put in place early help interventions in an effort to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. When a safeguarding issue requires a higher level of intervention, the Council will forward the concern to Cumbria County Council via the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub.

2.7 Section 13 of The Children’s Act 2004, states that each authority area must establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board. As a two tier area, Cumbria County Council is responsible for this board. At present Copeland Borough Council represents all other district councils on the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP), formerly Cumbria Local Safeguarding Board.

2.8 The Prevent duty (revised July 2015) places a duty on District Councils to participate in co-ordinated Prevent activity focused on mitigating radicalisation activity and to build it into their existing safeguarding procedures. The duty includes raising staff awareness, referring concerns and information sharing.

Underpinning Principles

3.1 The Council’s vision for our Borough is to be a great place to live work and visit.

Our approach to achieve this is by being a compassionate Council, putting residents at the heart of all we do.

This is underpinned by core values and behaviours including:

- To focus on our community and provide excellent service for all our customers and colleagues.

- To demonstrate honesty and integrity by doing the right thing; being open and confident to challenge and be challenged.

3.2 We will view any employees, apprentices and trainees under the age of 18 with equity and ensure them the same rights as adult colleagues, whilst recognising their understanding of their potential vulnerability due to their age by providing additional support.

Scope

4.1 This policy details Barrow Borough Council's commitment to safeguarding to ensure its functions, and those contracted out to others, are discharged with regards to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

4.2 The Council will focus on three key elements: Prevention, Protection and Support.

Prevention

- At all times Council staff will work in a non-discriminatory way promoting a positive atmosphere where trained staff are approachable and accessible and all staff are aware of appropriate behaviour and conduct.
- We will take reasonable steps to prevent children from coming to harm and protecting them from external dangers by ensuring staff are appropriately recruited, trained and supported.
- We will contribute towards preventing a worrying situation escalating into future abuse by participating in the Early Help agenda.

Protection

We recognise all staff have a role to play in the recognition and reporting of abuse and will train differing levels of staff with the confidence and competence to share information and report potential abuse in line with CSCP protocols.

Support

We will offer all children and their families appropriate levels of support and will offer support to its employees and volunteers by providing line management, clear instruction and information in relation to expectations of adult behaviour, training and guidance. We will ensure staff are trained to have an awareness of safeguarding issues and have a clear understanding of these procedures.

4.3 This policy is accompanied by an operational manual for staff which includes:

- Information about the signs and types of abuse.
- Procedures for employees, elected Members, contractors and volunteers to follow when recording a safeguarding concern.
- Guidance on how and when to share information about a safeguarding concern.
- Contact details of Barrow Borough Council's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

4.4 The policy applies to all Barrow Borough Council employees, elected members, volunteers, anyone delivering services on behalf of or representing the Council.

4.5 The policy applies to all services discharged by Barrow Borough Council, including services discharged on behalf of the Council.

- 4.6 The policy applies to the safeguarding of all children (anyone under 18) irrespective of race, colour, religion, ethnicity, sex, age, disability, nationality, sexual orientation.

Definitions

- 5.1 The Council will use these definitions in the implementation of this policy.

Child

The term 'child', means a child/young person or young person from pre-birth up to the age of 18 years.

Abuse

This includes physical, emotional or sexual abuse and neglect as outlined in Working Together 2015. Our wider definition takes into account the CSCP priority areas of domestic violence and child sexual exploitation as well as the 2015 Prevent agenda definitions of extremism and radicalisation.

Staff

This term relates to both paid and unpaid adults who work in the name of the Council including officers, apprentices, Elected Members and sub contracted personnel.

Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 Council employees and elected members

All Barrow Borough Council employees and elected Members have a responsibility to carry out their duties in a way that is mindful of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Employees and elected Members will be made aware of their roles and responsibilities through, the induction process, corporate policies and procedures, safeguarding training, job profiles and work programmes.

All Barrow Borough Council employees and elected Members have a responsibility to prioritise the well-being of children and record and report any concerns they have with about the welfare of a child, this includes suspected or actual risk of significant harm to the child through abuse or neglect. **Failure to do so may be regarded as neglect.**

6.2 Contracted out services and volunteers

The policy applies to all services discharged by Barrow Borough Council, including services discharged on behalf of the Council.

Those organisations or individuals delivering services on behalf of or representing Barrow Borough Council (employed or voluntary) will be given a copy of this policy, and made aware of the expectation upon them to operate in compliance with this or their own safeguarding policy.

6.3 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Under the Children Act 2004 the Council has a duty to have a 'named person' within the Authority to act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The Assistant Director - Housing is the DSL for Barrow Borough Council.

The DSL will review all safeguarding concerns in conjunction with the appropriate Operations Manager, the DSL will decide whether a local level early intervention is sufficient to meet the needs of the child, or whether the needs of the child can only be met by a higher level, multi-agency intervention, in which case the DSL is responsible and accountable for referring all safeguarding concerns to Cumbria County Council via the Local Safeguarding Hub.

The DSL will also ensure the following functions:

- Bi-annual refresh of the Safeguarding Children Policy
- Completion of the Section 11 audit
- The Council complies with safer recruitment procedures.
- A point of contact is provided to all employees and elected members with regards to safeguarding queries

6.4 Operations Managers

This layer of the Barrow Borough staff team will act as the key point of contact between the DSL and front line staff when it comes to raising a safeguarding concern. They will support the member of staff whilst ensuring that the information gets to the DSL in line with the procedures outlined in the operations manual.

6.5 Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The Children Act 2004 requires each upper tier Local Authority has a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The role of the LADO is to manage allegations against people who work with children who are paid, unpaid, volunteers, casual, agency or anyone self-employed.

In the event a safeguarding concern is made about the conduct of an employee or elected Member, the Council will seek advice from the LADO and follow procedures set out by the CSCP.

6.6 Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board (CSCP)

The purpose of the CSCP is to coordinate roles and provide the strategic and operational direction for safeguarding in Cumbria.

Barrow Borough Council is represented on the CSCP by a county district lead and fully endorses the guidance and protocols which the CSCP set.

The LCSB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of efforts.

The Cumbria CSCP will coordinate delivery of higher level safeguarding referrals and assessments and interventions in South Lakeland and Furness.

6.7 Cumbria Safeguarding Children Hub (The Hub)

Cumbria County Council operates the Hub as a gateway to Cumbria Children's Social Services.

In the case of a serious safeguarding concern where immediate protection is required, Barrow Borough Council's DSL will contact the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub.

6.8 The Council's role as a Corporate Parent

All councils, and in particular the councillors, have a responsibility to ensure the needs of looked after children are met. This starts with a full awareness of their "corporate parenting" role. This includes an understanding of the profile of children in care in the district and the impact the council's decisions have on those children in care and as care leavers. Members should act as champions of the needs of these children and ensure that services meet those needs.

Monitoring of Policy Adherence

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis, at a minimum of every two years, to incorporate any changes to legislation or guidance from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (CSCP).
- 7.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will carry out an annual Section 11 Audit in line with the Council's duty under the Children Act 2004. The annual audit will permit the Council to evaluate and review the arrangements it has in place. Subsequently the policy may be updated to allow for changes that have occurred.
- 7.3 The principles and commitments outlined in this policy translate into a separate operational procedures manual. Adherence to council procedures will be monitored by Operational Managers, HR and the DSL and established HR procedures (such as disciplinary and additional support) will be considered and applied as appropriate.

References

Related Documents

- [Barrow Borough Council Safeguarding Children Procedure](#)
- [Barrow Borough Council](#): HR Policies and Procedures
Whistle-blowing Policy
Hackney Carriage and Licensing Policy
- [Cumbria CSCP](#) Policies, Procedures and Guidance
Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance 2020
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – February 2019
- [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused](#) March 2015

Legislative Framework – Summary

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Childcare Act 2006
- Licensing Act 2003 (protection of children from harm including fit and proper taxi drivers)
- Gambling Act 2005 (protection of children from gambling and access to gambling) Housing Act 2004 (health and safety hazards in housing)
- Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Multi Agency Public Protect Arrangements) Data Protection Act
- Gambling and Sexual Entertainment Policy
- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
- Care Standards Act 2000
- Protections of Freedom Act 2012 (Disclosure and Barring and Vetting and Barring)
- Prevent Duty 2015