

Agenda item 6

For decision – Various safeguarding items at FTC

Authors: Cllr Andy Jones, Nikki Cox, Partnership Lead, Hannah Stopford, Engagement Lead, Laura Flaherty, Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor (Co Safeguarding Leads)

Following the updates to our Safeguarding Policy agreed at January's meeting of the Oversight Committee, and with guidance from Bob Ashford, we're proposing that safeguarding becomes as standing item on the agenda for each Oversight Committee, even if there is nothing to report. This will ensure that we keep safeguarding issues under the scrutiny they deserve. Andy Jones is already Safeguarding Governor at Critchill School (which ensures my training is kept up to date) and has offered to be the link between the Safeguarding Team and Cllrs.

There were a series of actions recommended in the report to Oversight in January. These were:

1. Signing in book at the Town Hall

You will be aware that we've changed the signing in book at the front desk to ensure it is both GDPR and safeguarding compliant.

2. Terms and conditions

In addition, we've added to our terms and conditions for hiring/leasing room at the Town Hall to ensure hirers are safeguarding compliant, these can be viewed on our website here: www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Frome-Town-Hall-hire-terms-and-conditions-updated-July-2024.pdf

3. Community groups offer

A comprehensive package of support has been developed for the community groups in town, details of which are available on our website <https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/our-community/organisation-support/support-for-groups/>

Nikki attends a monthly VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) Safeguarding Network Online Event hosted by Somerset Council.

4. Recruitment

This is ongoing and will be implemented as part of a wider review of our recruitment processes. We remain committed to making our job roles as accessible as possible.

Other

As a reminder the [safeguarding policy is always available on our website here](#) and will be reviewed annually, next review is due January 2025. Please remember contained within the policy is a safeguarding report form on page 12, we encourage staff and Cllrs to complete a form if they have any concerns and return a copy to one of the safeguarding leads so an

accurate record can be logged. If you would prefer a separate copy of the form, please let one of us know.

Nikki Cox is booked to attend the advanced child protection update training from the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership in November.

As a team we have had a handful of enquiries from staff asking for advice on a situation which has raised a concern for them. All enquiries were followed up.

Recommendations

1. Safeguarding becomes a standing item on the agenda for the Oversight Committee
2. Cllr Andy Jones is confirmed as link Councillor for the Safeguarding Team