

Cherwell District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 November 2018

<p>Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board/Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adult Board Section 11 Review and Endorsement</p>
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Report of Executive Director Wellbeing

This report is public

Purpose of report

To provide the committee with an opportunity to note and endorse the draft Cherwell District Council Section 11 return ahead of its submission to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB).

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note and endorse the Cherwell District Council Section 11 return to be submitted alongside a summary of the outcomes of a practitioner survey carried out on front line staff (appendix 1) and a summary of safeguarding training (appendix 2).

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on district councils (and other organisations) to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 2.2 Cherwell District Council has been requested by the OSCB and OSAB to complete a self-assessment of its arrangements against four broad safeguarding standards with a total of six sub categories against which we were required to RAG rate our compliance. The standards cover both safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and adults at risk.
- 2.3 This year we have also been asked to include an impact assessment reflecting current safeguarding pressures and activity (historically this has been reported separately as part of a joint return with City and District partners).

- 2.4 This year Cherwell District Council requested that front line staff complete the OSCB/OSAB practitioner survey. It was reported that Cherwell District Council had the best response rate of any partner agency in Oxfordshire.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 This report is accompanied by the draft OSCB/OSAB Section 11 Self-Assessment 2018 for review.
- 3.2 The Self-Assessment 2018 requires confirmation of the degree by which Cherwell District Council can meet and evidence adherence to the prescribed safeguarding standards and has received input from Service Managers from across the Council in its completion.
- 3.4 The Self-Assessment has identified some areas where improvements could be made and action plans have been documented to address these. All of which are planned to be completed over the next 12 months.
- 3.5 The Self-Assessment 2018 identified that of the six standard sub categories, Cherwell District Council could evidence full compliance in four areas; were compliant but needed further evidence in one area; and could not fully meet one area however recognises that work is in progress to address the identified weaknesses.
- 3.6 The Self-Assessment was approved by the Safeguarding Leads Group on 18 October 2018.
- 3.7 Submission of the Section 11 Self-Assessment 2018 to the OSCB/OSAB is required by 3 December 2018.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 We recommend the endorsement of this Section 11 Self-Assessment 2018 return which we believe accurately reflects the adequacy of our safeguarding arrangements and will enable us to meet our statutory reporting duties.

5.0 Consultation

The following have been consulted and provided approval of the OSCB/OSAB Section 11 Self-Assessment Return:

Nicola Riley, Assistant Director: Communities (and Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Colin Wilderspin, Community Safety Manager
Natasha Barnes, Contact Centre Services Manager
Tim Mills, Private Sector Housing Manager
Joanne Barrett, Strategic Housing Manager
Alison Adkins, Housing Team Leader
Helen Povey, Housing Management and Marketing Team Leader
Mandy Emery, Team Leader: Entitlements

Nicholas Sutcliffe, Licencing Manager
Liam Didcock, Leisure Contracts and Sports Hub Officer
Claire Cox, Human Resources Business Partner

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 No alternative options have been identified as it is a statutory requirement for Cherwell District Council to submit a return.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 None arising from this report

Comments checked by:

Kelly Wheeler, Principal Accountant. 01327 322230,

Email: Kelly.wheeler@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on the Council to ensure its functions, and any services that it contracts out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The recommendation contained in this report will assist the Council in discharging these duties.

Comments checked by:

Richard Hawtin, Team Leader – Non-contentious, Tel: 01295 221695,

Email: richard.hawtin@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 Completion of this Section 11 Self-Assessment 2018 will give corporate assurance that Cherwell District Council are meeting the requirements of a district council as outlined in the Children's Act 2004 and the Working Together 2015 guidance. It also enables us to identify areas where improvements are required and action plans can be put in place to address any shortfalls. This will be managed as part of the services operational risk register and escalated as and when necessary.

Comments checked by:

Louise Tustian, Team Leader, Insight Team. 01295 221786

Email: louise.tustian@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

- 7.4 **Equality Implications**

The Section 11 process ensures we meet our obligations under the equalities legislation. Actions taken in the last 12 months have been necessary and sufficient to ensure Cherwell District Council has discharged its duties.

Comments checked by:
Caroline French, Business Improvement Officer. 01295 221586.
Email: Caroline.french@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision – Not applicable

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Thriving Communities & Wellbeing

Lead Councillor

Andrew McHugh, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Cherwell District Council Section 11 Self-Assessment 2018
2	Practitioner Questionnaire Summary
3	Safeguarding Training Summary
Background Papers	
None	
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