

# **Cherwell District Council**

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**21 November 2017**

<p><b>Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board/Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adult Board Section 11 Review and Approval</b></p>
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### **Report of Director of Operational Delivery**

This report is public

#### **Purpose of report**

To provide the committee with an opportunity to review 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).

To receive feedback and approval for submission.

#### **1.0 Recommendations**

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To approve the draft Cherwell District Council Section 11 return to be submitted alongside the results from the staff survey currently underway.

#### **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 ten sub categories. The standards cover both safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and adults at risk.
- 2.3 This return also requires Cherwell District Council to undertake and submit the results of a Safeguarding Self-Assessment Practitioner Questionnaire.

### **3.0 Report Details**

- 3.1 This report is accompanied by the draft OSCB/OSAB Section 11 Self-Assessment 2017 for review.
- 3.2 The Self-Assessment 2017 requires confirmation of the degree by which Cherwell District Council can meet and evidence adherence to the prescribed safeguarding standards and is in the process of receiving input from Service Managers across the Council.
- 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 complete by 30 September 2018.
- 3.5 The Self-Assessment 2017 identified that of the ten standard sub categories Cherwell District Council could evidence full compliance in six areas; were compliant but needed further evidence in three areas; and could not fully meet one area however recognises that work is already underway to address the identified weaknesses.
- 3.6 This report is in draft and is subject to review and input from Service Management and possible amendment following analysis of the results of the staff survey.
- 3.7 Submission of the Section 11 Self-Assessment 2017 to the OSCB/OSAB is required by 1 December 2017.

### **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 We recommend the approval of this Section 11 Self- Assessment 2017 draft return (subject to no material changes) 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 are currently being consulted and will provide formal approval of the OSCB/OSAB Section 11 Self-Assessment Return:

Mike Grant, Safer Communities Manager  
Jackie Fitzsimons, Shared Public Protection Manager  
Natasha Barnes, Contact Centre Services Manager  
Tim Mills, Private Sector Housing Manager  
Marianne North, Housing Needs Manager  
Joanne Barrett, Strategic Housing Manager  
Mandy Emery, Team Leader Entitlements  
Claire Cox, Human Resources Business Partner

## **6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 5.1 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,

[Kelly.wheeler@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.wheeler@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk)

### **Legal Implications**

- 7.2 The Council must continue to discharge its statutory duties pursuant to the Children Act 2004 and all other relevant acts, regulations and statutory guidance. The recommendation contained in this report will assist the Council in discharging these responsibilities.

Comments checked by:

Sophie Phillips, Solicitor. 01295 753701,

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### **Risk Implications**

- 7.3 Completion of this Section 11 Self-Assessment 2017 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.

Comments checked by:

Louise Tustian, Team Leader, Strategic Intelligence & Insight Team. 01295 221786,

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## **8.0 Decision Information**

**Key Decision – Not applicable**

**Wards Affected**

All

**Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework**

Protect the District

## Lead Councillor

Kieron Mallon, Public Protection and Community Services

## Document Information

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Cherwell District Council Section 11 Self-Assessment 2017
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
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