

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

CREATION OF A SAFEGUARDING OFFICER POST (EDUCATION)

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 Permission is sought to create Safeguarding Officer Post within the Education division of the People Directorate at NJC grade 10 with immediate effect.
- 1.2 The creation of this post further strengthens the Council's approach for Working Together to Safeguard Children.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council has a strong track record on taking action to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. The statutory requirements placed on local authorities and the principles outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children require effective safeguarding arrangements to be underpinned by:
 - safeguarding as everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
 - a child centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.
- 2.2. The governing bodies of all schools attended by North Lincolnshire children are required by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board to complete an Annual Safeguarding Audit. This activity is supported by North Lincolnshire Council as part of our commitment to working in partnership to safeguard children and ensures that all schools have an essential range of measures in place to help protect children. This process ensures that safeguarding children remains at the core of school improvement planning. There are currently no North Lincolnshire schools judged by Ofsted to be inadequate for Behaviour & Safety.
- 2.3 Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a duty on local authorities (in relation to their education functions and governing bodies of maintained schools and further education institutions, which include sixth-form colleges) to exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at a school, or who are students under 18 years of age attending further education institutions. The same duty applies to independent schools (which include Academies and free schools) by virtue of regulations made under section 157 of the same Act.
- 2.4 An opportunity has been identified to further strengthen the links between families, schools, other education settings, children's social work services and other agencies;

thereby ensuring that the understanding of each child's educational needs is understood in the context of assessing needs and providing help.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 To approve the creation of a Safeguarding Officer Post within the Education division of the People Directorate at NJC grade 10 with immediate effect.

3.2 Not to approve.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The preferred option is to approve the creation of a Safeguarding Officer Post within the Education division of the People Directorate at NJC grade 10. This will further strengthen the capacity for timely information sharing, assessing children's needs, decision making and providing help. The education focus of the post provides an opportunity to further increase the rigour of decision making by ensuring that children's academic needs, ambition and potential are used to inform assessment and plans.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 The post will be met from within the existing budget of the People Directorate: CF763, a permanent virement will be made between budgets.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 N/A

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 N/A

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The recommendation is to approve the creation of a Safeguarding Officer Post within the Education division of the People Directorate at NJC grade 10 with immediate effect.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. March 2013.