

Maldon District Council

Safeguarding Policy

2025

Children, Young People and Adults



MALDON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Document title	Safeguarding Policy – Children, Young People and Adults
Summary of purpose	Sets out the Council’s responsibilities, principles, procedures and governance for safeguarding children, young people and adults with care and support needs.
Owner	Director of Neighbourhood Services and Communities
Author	Safeguarding Lead Officer
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Safeguarding Children, Young People & Adults Policy – 2025

Development of Policy

The Policy and supporting schedules have been developed utilising best practice, guidance from local authorities, the Essex Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards, legislation relevant to safeguarding and related policies provided by Maldon District Council.

Authorisation of Policy

The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Communities and the Safeguarding Lead Officer has responsibility and endorses the adoption and implementation of this Safeguarding Policy.

Delegated responsibilities rests with Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Leads and the Internal Maldon Safeguarding Review Board. A list of officers can be found at appendix 1.

This Retention and Disposal Schedule is authorised by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Communities and the Safeguarding Lead under guidance from the Council's Data Protection Officer

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Compliance of Policy

The schedules for this policy will be measured through the bi-monthly Maldon Safeguarding Forum using the action plans from the Essex Safeguarding Children and Adults Board audits. Actions arising, will be reported to Senior Leadership Team and prioritised following each audit report.

Documentation

Document Owner: Director of Neighbourhood Services and Communities

Document Author: Safeguarding Lead Officer

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Section A – Policy

1. Introduction

Children and adults have the right to participate and be safe in the services provided for them regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. This includes a right to protection from abuse, neglect, and any form of exploitation.

Maldon District Council carries out its safeguarding responsibilities by ensuring that the needs and interests of children and adults are considered by all members of staff, including Council employees, elected Members, contractors, agency staff, volunteers, suppliers or consultants of Maldon District Council and when making decisions in relation to service provision.

This document is supported by a Maldon District Council Code of Conduct, Councillor’s Briefing, eLearning module and face to face training sessions. This policy runs in conjunction with the Council’s [Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure](#) and Safer Recruitment Procedure.

This Policy and all related documents are available in hard copy and alternative formats upon request.

Policy statement

Maldon District Council provides a wide range of services and facilities. This policy aims to ensure that an overarching approach to safeguarding covers all services. Maldon District Council will promote the welfare and protection of children and adults within all services by:

- Respecting the rights, wishes, feelings and privacy of children and adults.
- Raising awareness among Council employees, elected Members, contractors, agency staff, volunteers, suppliers, consultants etc. of their safeguarding duty.
- Taking seriously and responding appropriately and promptly to all concerns, incidents and allegations.
- Providing training appropriate to the level of involvement with children and adults to ensure that everyone understands the different forms abuse as well as their roles and responsibilities under the Council’s Codes of Conduct and the Safeguarding Policy.
- Ensuring that everyone knows how to record and report safeguarding concerns, incidents or allegations.
- Requiring organisations that the Council contracts to provide the Council with services, to have appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and training in place that align with this policy.
- Ensuring that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children and adults through the Council’s Safer Recruitment Procedure.
- Not tolerating harassment of any Council employees, elected Members, contractors, agency staff, volunteers, suppliers, consultants or children/adults who raise concerns of abuse.
- Preventing abuse by promoting good practice, creating a safe and healthy environment and avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse occur.

To stay at the forefront of safeguarding, Maldon District Council is committed to reviewing its safeguarding policies and procedures on an annual basis or if there are any legislative changes applicable. This will be referenced as a standing agenda item on the Maldon District Council Safeguarding Review Board.

Scope

This policy applies to all Directorates services and functions of Maldon District Council. In addition to employees and elected Members, it also applies to organisations delivering services on behalf of the Council, including contractors, agency staff, volunteers, suppliers, consultants, and grant funded organisations.

Definitions

Child

The term 'child' refers to anyone under 18 years of age (i.e., not yet reached their 18th birthday)

Young Person

The term 'young person' refers to any child aged 14 to 17 years of age

Adult

The term 'adult' refers to any person aged 18 years or over. According to the Care Act (2014), Local Authority safeguarding duties apply to any adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and.
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and.
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Abuse

Abuse is mistreatment of another person, causing them harm. It can be intentional or unintentional. Anybody can cause abuse, and it frequently involves someone who may exert power over another. It can take many different forms. (*Essex Safeguarding Adult Board*)

Harm

The Children Act 1989 defines 'harm' as 'ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development, including for example impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.

Parents

The term parent includes biological parents, adoptive parents, step-parents, and legal guardians, as well as any person who has parental responsibility for or is in care of a child.

Safeguarding Adults

"Adult safeguarding" is working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect. It is an important part of what many public services do, and a key responsibility of local authorities.

Safeguarding is aimed at people with care and support needs who may be in vulnerable circumstances and at risk of abuse or neglect. In these cases, local services must work together to identify those at risk and take steps to protect them.

Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children’s Social Care National Framework

For children who need additional help, everyday matters. Academic research is consistent in underlining the damage to children from delaying intervention. The actions taken by professionals to meet the needs of these children as early as possible can be critical to their future.

Children are best protected when professionals are clear about what is required of them individually and how they need to work together.



2. Safeguarding responsibilities

In Essex, safeguarding children and adults is a multi-agency responsibility involving the city/borough/district councils, Essex County Council, the Essex Safeguarding Children Board and the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board.

Essex County Council

Essex County Council has responsibilities as the Children's Services Authority and the Social Services Authority for Essex. As part of Maldon District Council's procedures, the Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Lead, or a Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officer will report safeguarding concerns, incidents and allegations to Essex Social Services. The relevant officers at Essex County Council will then be responsible for coordinating any investigation.

Essex Safeguarding Boards

 <p>ESSEX Safeguarding Children BOARD</p>	<p>The Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) is a statutory body which acts as a mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in Essex cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. There are seven organisations in Essex who are jointly responsible by law for the partnership arrangements for keeping children safe. These are Essex County Council, Essex Police and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) covering the County of Essex, known as the Statutory Partners, who also work alongside representatives from Education services, Probation, City, Borough and District Councils, NHS Trusts and Providers and the Voluntary and Faith Groups sector. They also work closely with the Southend City Council and Thurrock Council's Safeguarding Children Boards who maintain their own independent multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p>Please see the website at: www.escb.co.uk</p>
	<p>The Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB) is a statutory organisation that is committed to protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is committed to ensuring that it has access to the views of adults with care and support needs as well as those that work with them. It collaborates with wider strategic partnerships in Essex to ensure that where safeguarding responsibilities spread across the organisations, there is a clear understanding of where responsibility lies or a robust joined-up approach.</p> <p>Please see the website at: www.essexsab.org.uk</p>

As part of the Council's commitment to robust safeguarding provision, Maldon District Council through its Safeguarding Lead has a board member on both the ESCB and the ESAB.

It is the responsibility of all employees and elected members to adhere to best practice, participate in relevant training and report any concerns, incidents or allegations to a designated person in accordance with the reporting procedure set out in this policy.

In addition to their responsibilities for reporting safeguarding issues, all employees and elected Members should work to prevent safeguarding concerns arising by following the ‘Safe Working Practices’ guidelines found in Appendix 6. All external organisations and contractors providing services to the Council are required to comply with Maldon District Council’s Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults Policy and, where relevant, have their own policy, procedures and training in place.

Whilst safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, there are several specific safeguarding roles within Maldon District Council. The following briefly sets out the responsibilities of different safeguarding roles within the Council (see Appendix 1 for the safeguarding structure chart and relevant officer contact details).

Role	Responsibilities
Safeguarding Lead	This position holds overall accountability for Safeguarding Policies and Processes within Maldon District Council, ensuring the Council’s statutory duties are implemented, complied with and monitored.
Safeguarding Deputy Leads	Deputy Leads support the Safeguarding Lead in carrying out their duties. The Safeguarding Deputy Leads decide if Safeguarding Concerns/Incidents/Allegations are to be referred, following discussions with the Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO’s).
Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officers (DSROs)	These officers receive reports of safeguarding concerns or incidents and discuss these with the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Leads. They are Safeguarding experts within their service areas, helping to provide advice and support to Officers who suspect a safeguarding concern.
Human Resources (HR) Lead Officer	Acts as the first point of contact for reporting safeguarding allegations involving staff. In this instance, ‘staff’ refers to Council employees, agency workers or consultants of Maldon District Council.
HR Team	Human Resources Team follow the Safer Recruitment Procedure and ensure that appropriate checks are made on staff working with Children and Adults with care and support needs. This includes administrating DBS checks and updating training records
Monitoring Officer	This position is held by the Director of Legal and Governance who is the senior officer with the statutory responsibility for handling complaints made about Councillor conduct. They are also the named senior officer for Whistleblowing (allegations against staff, of suspected wrongdoing or malpractice that they reasonably believe is in the public interest).

Managers and supervisors	<p>Managers and supervisors are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Safeguarding Policy, ensuring that it is understood by staff working within their service areas and that the reporting procedures are followed.</p> <p>When recruiting a new staff member, managers and supervisors need to indicate the correct safeguarding training level is applied to the role, including checking that the appropriate training is booked. They need to communicate with HR regarding Safer Recruitment and DBS checks.</p> <p>Staff need to be able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role, and this should be regularly discussed during regular 1 to 1 meetings, Personal Development Reviews and team meetings, where relevant.</p>
All Staff	<p>‘Staff’ refers to all Maldon District Council employees, elected Members, contractors, agency staff, volunteers, suppliers or consultants of Maldon District Council.</p> <p>All Staff need to follow best practice, participate in relevant training and report any concerns, incidents or allegations.</p>
Suppliers and Contractors	<p>Must agree to comply with Maldon District Council’s Safeguarding Policy and where relevant have their own procedures and training arrangements in place.</p>

Maldon District Council Safeguarding Review Board

The Maldon District Council Safeguarding Review Board consists of representatives with safeguarding responsibilities from across Maldon District Council. The Maldon District Council Safeguarding Review Board meets bi-monthly and is responsible for implementing and progressing any safeguarding action plans.

A yearly report will be presented to the Senior Leadership Team as well as any significant issues as they occur. The Group is overseen by the Safeguarding Lead.

District, Borough & City Council Safeguarding Leads Meeting

The District, Borough & City Council Safeguarding Leads meet on a quarterly basis to share county-wide safeguarding information, updates and good practice. The Head of Community Safety & Customer Services (Maldon District Council), the Public Protection Manager (Chelmsford City Council) and Community Safety Officer (ASB) represent Maldon District Council at these meetings.

Mid-Essex Stay Safe Group

The Mid-Essex Stay Safe Group consists of representatives from a range of agencies including NHS, Essex Social Services, Police, Probation, Education, Voluntary Sector and District Councils. This group is responsible for developing an action plan to improve safeguarding practice across the Mid-Essex area and for considering actions to address emerging issues. The Public Protection Manager (CCC) and Community Safety Officer (ASB) represent Maldon District Council at these meetings.

Types of Abuse

Although some Council employees, elected Members, contractors, agency staff, volunteers, suppliers or consultants of Maldon District Council may have limited direct contact with children and adults, it is important they are aware of the potential indicators of abuse and what to do if they have concerns. Responsibilities under this policy are limited to reporting any concerns, incidents or allegations, it is not the responsibility of those representing the Council to investigate or judge allegations.

There are eight categories of abuse relating to children and ten for adults, as defined within the Children’s Act 1989 and Care Act 2014. These are listed below, with more details at Appendix 4

Types of abuse - Children (source: SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures 2025)	Types of abuse - Adults (Source: Care Act 2014/ SET Safeguarding Policy 2024)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical Abuse 2. Emotional Abuse 3. Sexual Abuse 4. Neglect 5. Domestic Abuse 6. Child Sexual Exploitation 7. Child Criminal Exploitation 8. Human Trafficking/ Modern Slavery 9. Online Abuse 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical Abuse 2. Domestic Abuse incl. Honour Based Abuse 3. Sexual Abuse 4. Psychological Abuse 5. Financial Abuse 6. Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking 7. Discriminatory Abuse 8. Organisational Abuse 9. Neglect and acts of Omission 10. Self-Neglect and Hoarding 11.

3. Safeguarding requirements for specific circumstances

Grant applicants

Safeguarding policies and procedures are required from all grant funded organisations working with children and adults who seek funding from Maldon District Council. This information will be requested at the point of application assessment prior to the formal awarding of any grant. No grant will be issued without the relevant documentation.

As a minimum, any organisation receiving funding from the Council will be expected to have a statement of policy and procedure regarding safeguarding, in place and understood by employees and volunteers, and available to service users. This applies to all organisations the Council awards grants to, irrespective of whether the grant has been awarded through the official grant application process.

Commissioned/contracted or grant funded organisations with minimal contact with children or adults may wish to adopt the Council’s policy and procedures if deemed suitable.

Hirers of Council Facilities

It is the responsibility of any independent sports clubs, theatre groups and other organisations which hire out and use facilities operated by or on behalf of Maldon District Council, to have their own safeguarding policy and procedures in place. All activities that involve participation of children, young

people and/or adults with care and support needs are approved on the understanding that the Hirer is aware of their responsibility and confirm they have appropriate safeguarding procedures in place.

Use of contractors and suppliers

Maldon District Council will take reasonable steps to ensure that contractors and suppliers doing work on behalf of the Council are monitored appropriately. Maldon District Council has a specific safeguarding page for Contractors/Suppliers to refer to for more information.

Maldon District Council is required to ensure that contractors and suppliers are aware of and use the Council's Combined Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults.

Certain suppliers, whilst undertaking a council contract, may come into contact with or be in the vicinity of children, young people and adults with care and support needs. Therefore, they must be aware of and comply with the reporting procedures and safe working practices contained in the Council's Safeguarding Policy. They must also ensure that their staff are DBS checked and trained appropriately, where relevant.

Maldon District Council must inform contractors of their obligations under the policy, these apply to all purchase orders placed by the Council.

Health and safety

Maldon District Council enforces health and safety in workplaces including shops, restaurants, warehouses, and premises providing consumer services or leisure facilities. Employers in these premises are obliged to carry out risk assessments, including for the employment of young people. Whilst undertaking their duties, officers of the Council may examine such risk assessments with a view to determining their suitability. If evidence is gained that young people are working without relevant permits in place, or in 'unsuitable workplaces', Maldon District Council will report this activity to Essex Social Care Direct.

Licensing

Maldon District Council is responsible for a wide range of licensing functions. Protecting children from harm is a licensing objective that the Council is legally obliged to consider, in particular when licensing premises under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005. These functions are delivered via Chelmsford City Council under a Service Level Agreement. For more information, please refer to the Maldon District Council's Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy, Guidelines Relating to the Relevance of Convictions, and Gambling Act 2005 Policy, available [online](#).

Photography

Councillors, employees, volunteers and contracted service providers should always be vigilant to ensure that misuse of photography does not occur.

All photography by Council employees or on behalf of the Council must be made in accordance with the Council's procedures. Written consent must be obtained before anyone working for or on behalf of the Council takes a photograph of or films a child, young person or adult. Usually this will be in the form of

the Council's Image Consent Form.

When commissioning professional photographers, or inviting the press to cover Council services, events and activities you must ensure that you make your expectations clear in relation to child protection. The following steps should be taken when professional photographers or the press are invited to events:

- a. Check the credentials of any photographers and organisations used,
- b. Ensure identification is always worn,
- c. Do not allow unsupervised access to children or adults
- d. Do not allow photographic sessions outside of the activities or services,
- e. Ensure that the names of children or adults are not used in photographs or footage, unless the express permission of the parent/carer of the child, young person or adult has been given.

The Communications Team have a list of preferred professional photographers and can organise one on your behalf.

Internet and social media

The open nature of the internet including the numerous social media sites provides an easy method for people to commit abuse online. The following reporting processes are in place for reporting online abuse:

1. For staff experiencing abuse from another member of staff this will be reported in accordance with the Council's [Grievance Policy](#). The perpetrator will be subject to the disciplinary procedure.
2. If a member of staff is experiencing abuse from a member of the public or a fellow professional then this will be reported in accordance with the Council's [Unacceptable Behaviour Policy](#).
3. If a member of the public is experiencing abuse, then this will be reported via the normal safeguarding route, and the most appropriate course of action would be identified – this could include reporting to the police as a hate incident for example

Social networking sites can leave Council staff vulnerable to allegations if they fail to observe a few simple precautions. The below guidelines are intended as general advice on how to avoid social media putting you in a position where your actions may be misconstrued or give rise to a safeguarding concern. Guidance on using social media for business uses can be found on the social media pages of the staff intranet.

Please be aware that children and adults or their parents and carers may be able to view your social media profile and could, if they find any posts offensive, complain to the Council. It is important therefore that your privacy settings and the way that you conduct yourself on social media are appropriate.

Conduct on social networking sites

- You should not accept friend requests from (or send friend requests to) a child, young person, adult (or their parent/carer) who you are in contact with because of your council employment.
- All social media engagement on behalf of the Council should take place via an approved site and not via personal accounts. You should not, outside of formal channels, engage in online discussion with any child, young person or adult (or their parent/carer) who you are in contact with as a result of your council employment.

- Do not post any comments about, or pictures of, children or adults (or their parents/carers) who you are in contact with because of your Council employment.
- Be aware that other users could tag you in an inappropriate post or photograph. If you find inappropriate references to yourself on social media, you should de-tag yourself and contact the user to ask for it to be removed.

Privacy and security

- To ensure that social media does not compromise your professional position please ensure that your privacy settings are set correctly. At a minimum, it is recommended that security levels are set to 'friends only' for Facebook (and the equivalent settings for other social media websites).
- You should proactively update your privacy settings whenever a social media provider changes its settings.

Online conduct should not differ from offline conduct in terms of respect for others. When using personal social networking sites always remember that everything you say is a matter of public record and could be viewed more widely than you intend. Any content found to breach existing policies may result in disciplinary action.

If you suspect your social media account has been compromised and you believe there may be a bearing on your role, please inform your line manager within 24 hours.

Work experience

Maldon District Council offers work experience to many young people each year. Managers should ensure that employees are aware of the Safe Working Practice Guidelines (Appendix 6).

4. Safeguarding training

Employee training

Whenever Maldon District Council recruits' employees it will ensure that they are well informed, trained, supervised and supported so that they understand safeguarding and their responsibilities; recognise the various types and indicators of abuse and have knowledge of internal reporting procedures.

Training will happen by the following process:

Training Levels	Training	Who requires this training
Level 1	Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults Induction Booklet. To be completed prior to starting, then refreshed every 3 years.	All Maldon District Council staff.
Level 2	As above, plus: Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults eLearning module To be completed within one month of starting, then refreshed every 3 years.	Maldon District Council staff who are in regular contact or have periods of intense but irregular contact, with children and adults.
Level 3	As above, plus: Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults face-to-face training (3hrs) . To be completed within 6 months of starting, then refreshed every 3 years.	Maldon District Council staff who work predominantly with children, adults and/or their parents/carers.
Level 4	Role of the Designated Lead for Safeguarding Children and Adults	Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Leads and Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officers

Induction

All new starters are expected to familiarise themselves with the Code of Conduct booklet. A copy of this booklet is included as a Key Document within the Pre-Starter reading on the 'New Starter Information' internet page and new starters sign a Key Document Form to confirm that they have read and understood the document.

Ongoing training needs

Line managers and Human Resources will be primarily responsible for assessing what safeguarding training individual officers require and monitored by the Internal Corporate Safeguarding Group.

The training interventions are cumulative, and some employees are required to complete all of them. If staff have any doubts about what safeguarding training they require, they can ask their line manager or contact Human Resources.

Training for Casual Staff

All staff members have access to the Code of Conduct booklet at the facility in which they work. Those without a Council login can access a hard copy via their line manager.

The Council's e-learning module can be accessed online (by staff with a Council login) and a hard copy or a PDF version can be provided. Should a member of staff leave and return within a three year period, they will not be required to undertake the training again unless major changes to the Council's safeguarding policies and procedures have been made.

Training administration

Safeguarding training for staff will be monitored by HR. They will be responsible for notifying staff and managers of staff that have outstanding training; including any refresher training that is required every 3 years.

Individual Council-run departments are responsible for ensuring their staff attend relevant safeguarding training in a timely manner. HR will provide information on any outstanding training to both the staff and their manager.

5. Safer recruitment

Maldon District Council is not a Children's Services Authority and therefore does not have statutory responsibilities for direct provision of services to children or adults. However, the Council plays an important enabling role in safeguarding and community wellbeing through partnership working, housing and environmental services, and initiatives that support prevention and early intervention.

Managers and Human Resources are responsible for risk assessing all job descriptions to identify which are likely to involve regular and/or substantial unsupervised contact with children and adults.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) formed from 1st December 2012 through the Protection of Freedoms Act (2012). This service allows the Council to check whether there have been any updates since the date of an existing DBS check, as a DBS check has no official expiry date. Such a process should only be used in those few instances where employees and volunteers have substantial or regular and unsupervised contact with children and adults and in accordance with the Council's procedure for rechecks.

For more information on the Council's safe recruitment practices, please refer to the following pages and documents:

- [Safer Recruitment Procedure](#)
- [Policy and Procedure for Obtaining Disclosures and Barring Checks](#)

In addition, all job application packs will expressly state Maldon District Council's commitment to safer recruitment and safeguarding generally.

6. Audit, quality assurance and review

Review mechanism

Responsibility for updating this policy lies primarily with the Safeguarding Lead Officer in conjunction with the Maldon District Council Safeguarding Forum. The policy will be reviewed annually and between annual reviews, making any necessary changes required by legislation or policy they are made aware of.

Compliance

As part of the policy review, it is important that an assessment is made of its effectiveness. Therefore, to inform the annual policy review, a submission should be included in One Maldon District which seeks to raise staff awareness and adherence to offer the opportunity for feedback in relation to safeguarding policies and procedures.

Quality assurance and improvement

Although this policy only requires an annual review, service improvement is a continuous process. Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officers should liaise with the Safeguarding Lead to provide feedback to any officer who has made a safeguarding report. Officers who attend external safeguarding meetings or training should report any recommendations or best practice to other safeguarding officers at the Maldon District Council Safeguarding Forum meetings.

Safeguarding Board Audits

'Working Together to Safeguard Children' states that Local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnerships/Boards have a statutory duty to assess how well, and to what level, its partners are fulfilling their obligations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. This requirement is carried out through a regular cycle of auditing of partners' safeguarding effectiveness.

As part of the Essex Safeguarding Adult Board's remit in ensuring that there are effective safeguarding arrangements in Essex it is important that it can audit and monitor how robust the arrangements are that local agencies, organisations, and service providers have in place.

Maldon District Council partakes in both the ESCB and ESAB audits to assess our current compliance and uses it to develop an improvement plan where required.

7. Other relevant policies

Maldon District Council has other separate policies that sit alongside its Safeguarding Policy. These are available on the intranet.

Whistleblowing Procedure

This procedure is intended to supplement, rather than to replace, the existing procedures whereby employees of the Council and other persons may raise complaints or matters of concern with the Council. It may also be followed where reports are made of safeguarding allegations against staff, of suspected wrongdoing or malpractice that they reasonably believe is in the public interest - [Whistleblowing Procedure](#)

Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy

This policy sets out what the Council hopes to achieve in relation to domestic abuse as a local employer. The aim is to support those employees who are experiencing domestic abuse, raise awareness of its implications and its effect within the workplace and set out what we may be able to do if employees are perpetrators of domestic abuse - [Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy](#)

Section B – Reporting Procedures

The SET (Southend, Essex, and Thurrock) safeguarding guidelines outline the basic safeguarding procedures which should be followed by all local authorities in Essex. For reference, the guidelines for safeguarding children can be viewed at: [SET Safeguarding and Children Protection Procedures](#) and the equivalents for safeguarding adults are available at: [SET Safeguarding Adult Guidelines](#). The Council has used these guidelines to form our own procedures for handling safeguarding issues internally.

The following procedure outlines the steps that all staff, councillors, volunteers, casuals and contractors should take when they become aware of a safeguarding concern, incident or allegation.

In addition to the procedures below, the Council's Housing Service may need to make a referral to Essex Social Care in relation to:

- Homeless 16 - 17-year-olds; and
- Homeless households with children or a pregnant woman who are in receipt of a negative decision under homelessness legislation

1. Internal Safeguarding Reporting Procedure for all staff, councillors, contractors, casuals and volunteers

Stage 1

- 1) An employee, councillors, contractor, casual or volunteer notices a possible safeguarding concern, witnesses an incident or is made aware of an allegation.
- 2) If the above occurs, stay calm and try to obtain another witness to your conversation with the child, young person or adult involved in the event, if it does not compromise the situation.
- 3) Whilst talking to the child, young person or adult, or as soon as possible after, complete a **Concern/Incident/Allegation (CIA) Form** to capture as much detail as possible regarding the occurrence. This form is accessible via the [Freshservice](#).
- 4) Listen carefully to what is said and allow the child, young person or adult to talk at their own pace. Only ask questions for clarification and do not ask leading questions.
- 5) Find an appropriate opportunity to explain that it is likely that the information will need to be shared with other responsible people – do NOT promise to keep secrets.
- 6) Submit the CIA form online. Casual members of staff can seek advice from Designated Safeguarding Officers in relation to CIA submissions.
- 7) Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officers (DSROs) will be notified by email that the case has been submitted.

Stage 2

- 1) One of the DSROs accepts the new case and completes the second stage of the process online **on the same day** of the incident being reported. The DSRO will discuss the case with the Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy Lead to decide the best course of action, i.e., whether to:
 - refer the case to either Essex Social Care Direct, Essex Police or other support service
 - keep the case open and investigate further
 - decide not to refer the case and close the CIA

Stage 3

Referral

- 1) The Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officer will either make the referral by phone to Essex Social Care Direct, Essex Police or other support service and/or submit a SETSAF Form (for adults) or a Request for Support Form (for children).
- 2) The Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officer records all actions and uploads them to the Freshservice system.

Case closed

- 1) If it is decided that the case will not be referred further, the Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officer must record the reason for not doing so on the FreshService system.

Other

- 1) All case notes and information will be stored on the secure FreshService Platform. The case will remain open and visible to all DSROs until it has been agreed that the case should be closed.
- 2) Finally, the person who made the initial report is informed whether the case has been referred.

Criteria for safeguarding referrals

- Urgent - Immediate risk to life or serious harm.
 - Child or adult at immediate risk of serious physical harm, abuse, or neglect.
 - Clear evidence of ongoing abuse by a known perpetrator (e.g. parent, carer, partner).
 - A child or vulnerable adult is in a situation where emergency services are required.
 - Victim is at immediate risk of sexual exploitation, trafficking, or forced marriage.
 - Police protection or emergency accommodation needed.
 - **Response:** Immediate action within same working day – call emergency services if necessary.
- High (H) - Significant and escalating risk of harm.
 - Evidence of serious neglect or abuse that is persistent or escalating.
 - Injuries or harm that raise suspicion of abuse (e.g. unexplained bruises, burns).
 - Allegations of sexual abuse or severe emotional abuse.
 - High-risk domestic abuse affecting children or vulnerable adults.
 - Perpetrator has access to the victim or lives in the same household.
 - Multi-agency response required (police, social care, health).
 - **Response:** Assessment/action within 24–48 hours.

- **Medium (M)** - Emerging or potential risk of harm.
 - Concerns about neglect or poor supervision, but no immediate danger.
 - Family under stress, parental mental health or substance misuse, affecting care.
 - School or community report concerns about behaviour, hygiene, or emotional wellbeing.
 - Past history of safeguarding concerns but currently no active risk.
 - Allegation against a professional that doesn't meet threshold for immediate removal.
 - **Response:** Information gathering and decision-making within 3–5 working days.

IMPORTANT:

If you think the child, young person or adult **IS IN** immediate danger you must call 999 and then contact a Safeguarding Lead/Deputy, directly, as soon as possible. The normal safeguarding procedure can then be followed from submitting the CIA form onwards.

If the concern, incident or allegation is in relation to an employee, councillor, contractor, casual or volunteer you need to contact the HR Services Manager and Safeguarding Lead/Deputy as soon as possible.

Alternatively, you can report via the Whistleblowing procedure outlined in the Whistleblowing Policy (*Available on the Intranet in the HR Documents Section*).

Confidentiality

Staff must not:

Discuss any allegations of abuse or bullying, substantiated or not, with anyone from Maldon District Council, other than their line manager, the Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officer or the Safeguarding Lead and Deputies.

Discuss any allegations of abuse or bullying, substantiated or not, with any member of an external agency, other than as part of a formal investigation.

Discuss any allegations of abuse or bullying, substantiated or not, with any other interested party, including parents, carers and relatives of the child, young person or adult without the express permission of the person with overall responsibility for the investigation.

This does not exclude the employee from the need or right to consult with a solicitor, trade union representative or other bona fide legal adviser.

Out of hours working

If a member, employee, contractor or volunteer is concerned about an incident or allegation of abuse outside office hours and the person is NOT deemed to be in immediate danger, they should speak to their line manager. The line manager may make the decision to contact either the Safeguarding Lead or Deputies on:

Daniel Cannon - Safeguarding Lead – 01621 854477

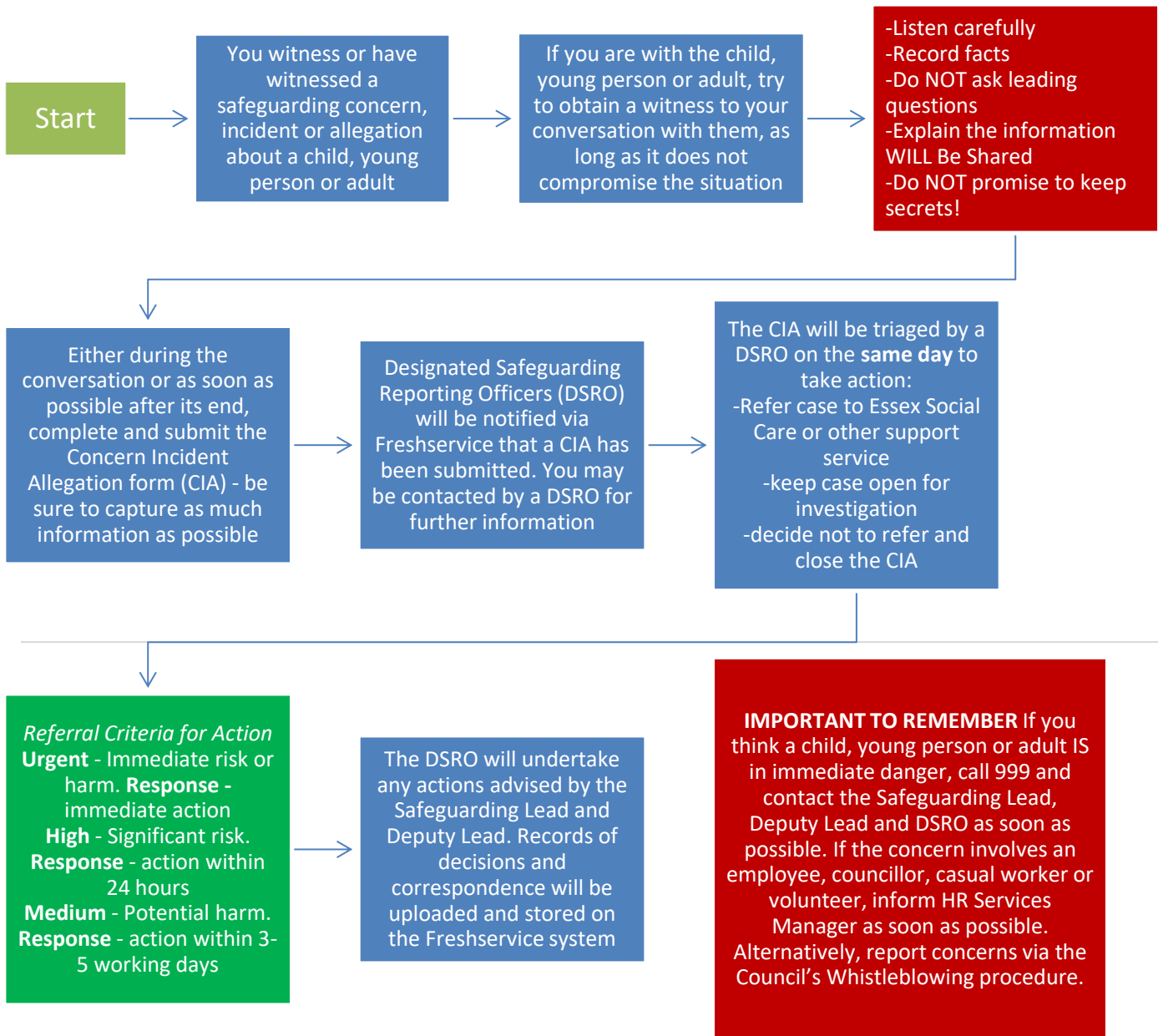
Danielle Blake - Deputy Lead - 01621 732708

Spencer Clarke - Deputy Lead – 07940 952364

Alastair Morrell – Deputy Lead – 01621 732728

If the child, young person or adult is in immediate danger, please contact **Essex Social Care Direct 'Out of Office Hours' Line** on 0345 606 1212 or **if the incident is considered severe, immediately call the police on 999**. A CIA form should be completed as soon as possible afterwards, and a Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officer contacted at the earliest convenience.

Maldon District Council Internal Reporting Procedure Flowchart



Appendix 1: Maldon District Council Safeguarding Contacts

Name	Safeguarding Role	E-mail address
Daniel Cannon	Lead	Daniel.cannon@maldon.gov.uk
Danielle Blake	Deputy Lead	Danielle.blake@maldon.gov.uk
Alastair Morell	Deputy Lead	Alastair.morrell@maldon.gov.uk
Spencer Clarke	DSRO	Spencer.clarke@chelmsford.gov.uk
Jo Bratt	DSRO	Joanne.bratt@maldon.gov.uk
Luke Daley	DSRO	Luke.daley@chelmsford.gov.uk
Nicola Syder	DSRO	Nicola.Syder@maldon.gov.uk
Leanne Pateman	DSRO	Leanne.Pateman@maldon.gov.uk
Ellen Barkley	DSRO	ellen.barkley@maldon.gov.uk
Sophie Pegley	DSRO	Sophie.pegley@maldon.gov.uk
Human Resources	Human Resources	Human.resources@maldon.gov.uk

Child Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of sexual abuse whereby young people under the age of 18 years old receive 'something' (food accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) in exchange for performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

It can happen to any young person from any background and affects boys and young men as well as girls and young women. It can occur without physical contact and without their immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones.

There are 3 important and recognisable elements of child sexual exploitation:

- Children are 'groomed' and there is power, and control held by the perpetrator/s
- An 'exchange' (such as gift, food, money, drugs etc.) is present, this could be to a third party and not always to the child themselves
- Sexual acts or the exchange of sexual images

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

There is no statutory definition for Child Criminal Exploitation. CCE is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate to deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 years old.

Young people may receive something such as food, gifts or money for completing a criminal task for others. It often occurs without the child's immediate recognition, with them believing they are in control of the situation. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Modern Slavery (including Human Trafficking)

Modern Slavery comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. The common factors are that a victim is, or is intended to be, used or exploited for someone else's (usually financial) gain, without respect for their human rights.

Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Maldon District Council as a first responder and local authority has the following duties:

- Duty of enquiry - identification and referral of victims
- Duty to safeguard – support victims through housing/homelessness services where possible
- Duty to notify the Home Office of any individual who we believe is a suspected victim of modern slavery or human trafficking (*MS1 form for non-consenting adults who do not want to go through the NRM process*)

- Duty to make appropriate referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for all children and consenting adults
- Duty to ensure the supply chains we procure are free from modern slavery and publish a Modern Slavery transparency statement
- Duty to Community safety and disruption activities

Honour Based Abuse (including FGM and FM)

Honour Based Abuse (HBA) is an international term used by many cultures for justification of abuse and violence. It is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the family or community 'honour'. HBA occurs when perpetrators believe a relative or other individual has shamed or damaged a family's or community's honour or reputation and that the only way to redeem the damaged honour is to punish and/or kill the individual.

Honour based abuse often goes hand in hand with forced marriage, although this is not always case. Honour crimes and forces marriages are already covered by the law and can involve a range of criminal offences.

HBA is often the collective term used to include Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage.

Prevent (counter-terrorism)

The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Aims of Prevent: T

- responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views.
- provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.
- works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with

Reporting:

Children, young people and vulnerable Adults can be more susceptible to being influenced, and therefore if you have a concern about a child, young person or adult that you think is linked to any of the topics above then you need follow the internal safeguarding reporting process.

Always dial 999 in the event of an emergency.

If you would like to some advice on any of these topics, you can speak to one of the designated points of contact for Maldon District Council as follows:

Name	Contact Details
Daniel Cannon – Head of Community Safety & Customer Services	T: 01621 854477 E: Daniel.cannon@maldon.gov.uk

Appendix 3: Useful Contacts

Social Care Referral and Enquiries

Children's Social Care	<p>Tel: 0345 603 7627 – ask for either the 'Consultation Line' or 'Priority Line'</p> <p><i>The consultation phone line will provide advice and guidance for professionals. The priority line is available for professionals to refer concerns where children may be at immediate risk of significant harm.</i></p> <p><i>(Mon–Thu, 8.45am to 5.30pm, Fri 8.45am to 4.30pm)</i></p> <p>OUT OF HOURS:</p> <p>Tel: 0345 606 1212 (emergency duty team)</p> <p><u>If a child or young person is in immediate danger, call 999.</u></p>
Adult Social Care	<p>Telephone: 0345 603 7630</p> <p><i>(Mon-Thu, 8:45am to 5pm, Fri 8:45am to 4:30pm)</i></p> <p>OUT OF HOURS:</p> <p>Tel: 0345 606 1212 (emergency duty team)</p> <p>You can also email the Adult Social Care team: socialcaredirect@essex.gov.uk</p>

Essex Police

Central switchboard	101
Emergency	999

Other

Essex Safeguarding Children Board	<p>Tel (general enquiries): 0333 013 8936</p> <p>Tel (training enquiries): 0333 013 8937 Email (general): escb@essex.gov.uk</p> <p>Email (training): escb.training@essex.gov.uk</p> <p>Web: www.escb.co.uk</p> <p>Address: Essex Safeguarding Children Board, Room</p>
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	C228, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1QH
Essex Safeguarding Adults Board	<p>Tel (general): 03330 131019</p> <p>Tel (training): 03330 139913</p> <p>Email (general): ESAB@essex.gov.uk</p> <p>Email (training): ESAB.training@essex.gov.uk</p> <p>Web: www.essexsab.org.uk</p> <p>Address: ESAB Support Team, E3 (zone 1), County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH</p>
Childline	<p>Tel: 0800 1111</p> <p>Web: www.childline.org.uk</p>
NSPCC (including Child Trafficking Advice Centre)	<p>Tel: 0808 800 5000</p> <p>Web: www.nspcc.org.uk</p>
Protect (formerly Public Concern at Work)	<p>Tel (advice line): 0203 1172 520 (Option 1*)</p> <p>Email: whistle@protect-advice.org.uk</p> <p>Web: www.p.caw.org.uk</p>
Crimestoppers (anonymous)	<p>Tel: 0800 555 111</p> <p>Web: https://crimestoppers-uk.org</p>
'Stop the Traffik' (The Metropolitan Police hotline for victims or to report suspected trafficking)	Tel: 0800 783 2589 (24-hour hotline)

Appendix 4: Signs and Indicators of Abuse

Type of Abuse	Examples	Signs/Indicators
Physical	Rough or inappropriate handling Hitting, shaking, throwing, kicking Poisoning Burning/scalding Suffocating/drowning Force-feeding Restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions Misuse of medication or refusing treatment Female Genital Mutilation Fabricated or induced illness	Unexplained injuries Unusual bruising or abrasions Burns and scalds e.g., cigarette burn Bite marks Hair loss from one area of scalp/sore patches Cowering and flinching. Unusually Sleepy or docile Fear of making mistakes/parent being contacted Wearing long sleeves in hot weather
Emotional (Children)/Psychological (Adults)	Verbal abuse Bullying (including online) Insulting, humiliating, ridiculing, blaming Harassment Intimidation/controlling behaviour/coercion Over-protection/social isolation Ignoring Exploitation and corruption Conveying to the individual that they are worthless/unloved Imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations on children Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another Withdrawal of services or support networks (adults)	Disturbed sleep Changes in behaviour, especially in front of particular people Self-abuse e.g., self-harm General resignation, withdrawal or isolation Extreme submissiveness or dependency Constantly seeks to please; fear of making mistakes or seeking attention. Fear of parents being contacted (Children) Low self-esteem; negative statements about self, aggressive or cruel to others. Poor peer relationships Failure to thrive i.e., falter in growth (Children Developmentally delayed e.g., speech disorders (Children) Anxious Obsessions or phobias
Sexual	Sexual acts the person hasn't consented to or was pressurised into consenting to Touching inappropriately Indecent exposure Sexual Harassment Non-contact activities such as taking photographs, filming, being forced to watch pornography. Online grooming Using inappropriate language	Incontinence/bed wetting Repeated urinary tract infections. Bruising, bleeding, pain, itchiness, or unexplained soreness around genital area Sexually Transmitted Diseases Pregnancy Torn or blood on underclothes. Apparent fear of one person or group of people Allegations made by child Inappropriate knowledge including use of language/inappropriate behaviour Overeating, anorexia, self-mutilation, suicidal Prostitution or indiscriminate choice of sexual partners Excessive washing

Type of Abuse	Examples	Signs/Indicators
Neglect and acts of omission	<p>Failure to; Provide a child with adequate food, clothing, shelter and supervision</p> <p>Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment</p> <p>Respond to basic emotional, social, health care and educational needs</p> <p>Safeguard and protect from harm or abuse.</p> <p>Also, includes:</p> <p>Withholding of 'necessaries', e.g., nutrition, medication, healthcare, social stimulation</p> <p>Behaviour of the parents and carers which have significant impact on children, such as domestic abuse.</p> <p>Neglect may occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance misuse, maternal mental ill health or learning difficulties.</p>	<p>Untreated medical conditions Inappropriate dress Constantly tired</p> <p>Dehydration/weight loss/malnutrition/constant hunger/frequent diarrhoea/clinically obese Unwashed, unkempt, smells</p> <p>Poor home environment e.g., unhygienic/hazardous Listless, apathetic</p> <p>Anxious attachment, aggression, indiscriminate friendliness</p> <p>Late/missed appointments/school or regularly forgotten to be picked up</p> <p>Poor self-esteem Few friends</p> <p>Inconsistent or reluctant contact with health or social care agencies</p> <p>Lack of safety equipment being used following recommendation.</p>
<p>Domestic Abuse</p> <p>(Includes: Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation)</p> <p>(Adults only)</p> <p>See Appendix 2 for further information on HBA</p>	<p>Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. Honour Based Abuse -used to justify abuse/violence.</p> <p>A Forced Marriage is when one or both parties do not consent to the marriage. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is female circumcision for cultural or non-therapeutic reason.</p>	<p>Excessive jealousy Isolation</p> <p>Controlling behaviours</p> <p>Child contact/custody problems Verbal abuse</p> <p>Damaging possessions</p> <p>Absence from school/college/work Excessive parental restriction and control Self-harm, suicide or depression</p> <p>Difficulty walking</p> <p>Female members of the family have undergone FGM</p>
<p>Financial</p> <p>(Adults only)</p>	<p>The unauthorised, fraudulent obtaining and improper use of funds, property etc., including: Theft, fraud</p> <p>Coercion or misappropriation on property, wills, bank accounts, benefits or assets</p> <p>Internet scamming Rogue traders</p> <p>Refusal to let the vulnerable person have access to their own money, property or possessions</p>	<p>Sudden inability to pay bills</p> <p>Someone has taken responsibility for paying bills, but not doing so</p> <p>Work on property not completed or costing excessive amounts</p> <p>Unexplained loss of money or personal possessions</p> <p>Arrears and debts Stealing</p> <p>No money for activities, transport, snacks</p> <p>Prevention of necessary care options</p>

Type of Abuse	Examples	Signs/Indicators
Modern Slavery (Including Human Trafficking) (Adults only) See Appendix 2	The Act - Recruitment, transportation, transfer, or harbouring. The Means - Threat or use of force, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability. For the purpose of exploitation - Includes sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery and the removal of organs or body tissue.	Very little or no pay Works excessively long and/or unusual hours Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off Poor physical health Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves Not in control of own money, no financial records or ID documents
Discriminatory (Adults only)	It includes discrimination/slurs based on race, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religion, examples of which are: Harassment Hate crime Unequal treatment Verbal/physical abuse/assault Inappropriate use of language Exclusion	Name calling Stereotyping Omitting services or activities based on preconceived ideas about someone's age or condition Ignoring dietary requirements Not meeting cultural or religious needs or imposing unwanted beliefs Lack of communication provision e.g., interpreters Incitements of others to commit abuse
Organisational (Adults only)	Neglect or poor practice because of structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation Can be one-off incidents or ongoing Imposing rigid and insensitive routines Unskilled, intrusive or invasive interventions An environment allowing inadequate privacy or physical comfort	Poor care planning Inflexible routines Poor staff morale, high turnover and sickness rate Insufficient staff training and staff development Repeated incidents – not learning over time Ignoring or not responding to complaints Little opportunity for outside activities Lack of privacy Few visitors/staff insistent on notification before visits Often described as “thoughtless” practice or “we always do it this way” or “this is how we do it here”
Self-Neglect (Adults only)	Wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding	Malnourishment Dehydration Confusion Inappropriate clothing Under or over medication Skin sores Poor hygiene

Appendix 5: Information Sharing and Retention

While carrying out its various functions and activities the Council collects and generates a wide range of data/information which is recorded in different forms of document (for example, letters, invoices, emails, photographs, voice recordings, plans/drawings, registers, contracts/deeds, financial records, application forms, video).

In order to meet our legal requirement under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the Council has developed a policy with which refers to the retention and disposal needs for both paper and electronically stored documents/records, including digital 'media'. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Council handles its data appropriately by enabling its staff and Members with the necessary information to manage their information in line with Council policies and relevant legislations.

Maldon District Council's Retention and Disposal Policy includes the following sections that are applicable to Safeguarding:

- Safeguarding SA1.1.1 states that records of welfare concerns that are referred to Social Care or the Police should be kept for 40 years after the last contact with the service user.
- Safeguarding SA1.1.2 states that records of welfare concerns that Community Services decide, after consultation, do not necessitate a referral to Social Care or the Police, should be kept for 40 years after the child/adult concerned ceases to use the service, unless the child or adult are continuing to use the services in the area that the referral initiated from.
- Safeguarding SA2.1 states that records of documents relating to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), led by Hon. Lowell Goddard (as detailed to Management Team) should be kept for 40 years to support the enquiry.

Concern/Incident/Allegation Forms completed online and progress notes regarding each case are retained on a secure corporate database called FreshService. Access to safeguarding data is allocated by a senior officer on a secure permissions basis and is accessible by members of the Internal Corporate Safeguarding Group.

Maldon District Council adopts the Safeguarding Information Sharing Protocol in conjunction with the SET (Southend, Essex, Thurrock) safeguarding guidelines. The Protocol sets out the details of sharing information in accordance with the principles defined in the Whole Essex Information Sharing Framework (WEISF).

Appendix 6: Safe working practices

Guidelines for conduct when working/having contact with Children, Young People and Adults

In addition to the Employee and Member Codes of Conduct/ Protocols, the following guidelines should be followed by Members, employees, volunteers and contracted service providers who have contact with children, young people or adults with care and support needs.

You should:

- Always ensure you can be seen and observed publicly when working with children, young people and adults with care and support needs and avoid situations where you would be alone with them.
- Children, young people and adults have a right to privacy, respect and dignity. Respect the child, young person or adults, provide a safe and positive environment and treat them equally in the context of any activity.
- You must put the wellbeing and safety of the child, young person or adult before what you are trying to achieve with them such as the development of their performance. In other words, you may have to cease the planned activity if carrying on would undermine their well-being or safety.
- If a child, young person or adult with care and support needs is accidentally injured as the result of your actions or failure to act or arrives at an activity or service showing signs or symptoms that give you cause for concern, you must act appropriately following the procedures outlined in the policy and always report such incidents as soon as possible to your line manager and the Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officer and make a written report.
- Ensure that recognised agencies such as schools, youth clubs or sports clubs are used to communicate and engage with children.
- Make sure that when undertaking visits to these places you agree in advance with the agency that an employee will always remain in the room with you.

You should not:

- Spend unreasonable amounts of time alone with children, young people and adults with care and support needs, when taking children, young people or adults on car journeys, no matter how short.
- Take children, young people and adults with care and support needs to your home or any other place away from Council or agency premises where they will be alone with you. However, if it is necessary for young people to go on site visits as part of their work experience, the officer in charge must write to parents in advance to ask for their permission and explain why it is necessary.
- Add or accept requests from young people you work with or come into contact with, on social networking sites (e.g., Facebook and Twitter, etc.)

- Arrange to meet or approach children, young people or adults with care and support needs outside an organised activity or service.

You should never:

- Leave children, young people or adults with care and support needs unattended.
- Engage in rough physical games including horseplay.
- Engage in sexually provocative games or allow, encourage or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- Make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child, young person or adult.
- Allow children, young people and adults with care and support needs to use language inappropriate to the circumstances, unchallenged, or use it yourself.
- Ignore or fail to record an allegation a child, young person or adult makes about you or others.
- Do things of a personal nature for children, young people and adults with care and support needs that they can do for themselves e.g., assist with changing. It may sometimes be necessary to assist them, particularly if they are very young or are disabled. In such a situation, these tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of parents/carers. In an emergency that requires this type of help, you should try to have someone else present and inform the parents/carers as soon as is reasonably possible.
- Share a changing room with a child, young person or adult with care and support needs.
- Enter areas designated only for the opposite sex. The only exception is where you are providing cleaning services and then you should wait until the room is vacant.
- Use the internet or any other electronic or telephone device to access child pornography sites.

Warning

Maldon District Council takes its responsibility very seriously. Employees who breach the guidelines above will face investigation and may face disciplinary action where appropriate, which could lead to a dismissal and the possibility of a criminal investigation where there is evidence of illegal activity.

Volunteers and contracted service providers in breach of the above the guidelines will have their services terminated with immediate effect. Where there is evidence of illegal activity, they will be reported to the relevant authorities and may face criminal investigation.

If a safeguarding issue occurs in which Member is alleged to have acted inappropriately, the Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officer informed of the breach should contact the HR Manager who will immediately contact the Safeguarding Lead and the Monitoring Officer. Where there is evidence of illegal activity, the Member will be reported to the relevant authorities and may face criminal investigation. In addition to these legal sanctions there may be grounds for a complaint to be made under the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Appendix 7: Terms and conditions of purchase – Suppliers

The Supplier acknowledges that the Council has legal responsibilities regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk under current legislation (including the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 ('SVGA')) and is also required to comply with various codes of practice and other guidelines (together the 'Safeguarding Obligation') and agrees to provide all assistance reasonably required by the Council to enable the Council to comply with the Safeguarding Obligation and shall not do any act that would cause the Council to be in breach of any provision set out in or referred to in the Safeguarding Obligation.

The Supplier acknowledges that it may also have legal responsibilities regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and adults with care and support needs and agrees to comply with those responsibilities.

The Supplier agrees that it will:

- Comply with the Council's 'Combined Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults', which is updated from time to time and is available on the Council's website and shall always ensure that it is familiar with and complies with the reporting procedures for suspected abuse, as set out in the policy.
- Ensure that adequate staff training is provided as appropriate.
- To the extent that it is discharging a service for the Council which would be regulated or affected by the Safeguarding Obligation observe and perform the Safeguarding Obligation.
- Notify the Council immediately of any breach of or departure from the Safeguarding Obligation.

The Supplier further agrees that it will:

- Ensure that all individuals engaged in a Regulated Activity under the SVGA will be subject to a valid enhanced disclosure check through the Disclosure and Barring Service; and
- Monitor the level and validity of the checks under this clause for each member of staff; and
- Not employ or use the services of any person who is barred from, or whose previous conduct or records indicate that he or she would not be suitable to carry out Regulated Activity under the SVGA or who may otherwise present a risk to service users and or children and/or adults.

Appendix 8: Safeguarding legislation

The following legislation and guidance underpin the safeguarding policy and aim to ensure that children and adults are protected from harm.

Legislation	Description
SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures	The SET (Southend, Essex, and Thurrock) safeguarding guidelines outline the basic safeguarding procedures which should be followed by all local authorities in Essex.
Working Together to Safeguard Children	<p>This statutory guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.</p> <p>Working Together 2018 set out the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) that all local authority areas had to have in place by the end of September 2019 to replace the previous Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).</p>
Children Act 1989 Children Act 2004	<p>Places a statutory duty on local authorities to consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across all their services.</p> <p>(2004) Section 11 places a statutory duty on district councils to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>(1989) Section 17 – Children in Need: The Local Authority has a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and to promote the upbringing of such children by their families.</p> <p>(1989) Section 47 – Children at Risk: The Local Authority shall make enquiries where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child or young person living in the area is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm.</p>
Care Act 2014	Outlines the responsibility of local authorities to carry out safeguarding enquiries where it is suspected that someone is suffering or at risk of abuse or neglect; and the obligation to create Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) in every area to bring together the key local partners to focus on safeguarding strategy and practice.
SET Safeguarding Adult Guidelines	Set out clearly how concerns about adults at risk of abuse will be managed within the framework set out in the Care Act (2014) and associated statutory guidance.
Mental Capacity Act 2005	Provides a statutory framework to empower and protect those (aged 16 and over) who may lack mental capacity to make decisions for themselves; and establishes a framework for making decisions on their behalf. It puts arrangements in place for advocacy support and best-interest decision-making.

<u>Care Standards Act 2000</u>	<p>Sets out a regulatory framework and standards for services people might receive. This applies to regulated services such as residential care, domiciliary care or adult placement schemes.</p> <p>Part 7 makes provision for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) scheme to prevent abusers from working with adults at risk.</p>
<u>Protection of Freedoms Act 2012</u>	<p>Established the Disclosure and Barring Service (merging the functions previously carried out by the Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguarding Authority). The Disclosure and Barring Service process requests for criminal records checks; decide whether to place or remove an individual from a barred list; place or remove a person from the children’s or adults barred lists for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.</p>
<u>Children and Social Work Act 2017</u>	<p>Intended to improve support for looked after children and care leavers, promote the welfare and safeguarding of children, and make provisions about the regulation of social workers.</p>
<u>Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006</u>	<p>Provides the legislative framework for a vetting and barring scheme for people who work with children and adults with care and support needs.</p> <p>Created the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), which aims to prevent unsuitable people working with children and adults with care and support needs. It includes social care services, as well as health, education, housing support and supporting people services.</p>
<u>Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014</u>	<p>Outlines forced marriage as a criminal offence in England and Wales, punished by up to seven years imprisonment. It also applies to UK nationals overseas who are at risk of becoming the victim of a forced marriage.</p>
<u>Sexual Offences Act 2003</u>	<p>Outlines that sexual activity with a child under 13 is never acceptable and that regardless of circumstances children of this age can never legally give their consent. Any sexual intercourse with a child under 13 will be treated as rape.</p> <p>Creates a new offence of meeting a child following sexual grooming. This made it a crime to befriend a child on the internet or by other means and meet or intend to meet the child with the intention of abusing them.</p> <p>Outlines ‘abuse of a position of trust’ and protects vulnerable 16- and 17-year-olds by prohibiting sexual contact between adults and children under 18 in schools, colleges and residential care.</p>
<u>Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003</u>	<p>Made FGM illegal in this country. It is an offence to undertake the operation (except on specific medical grounds), assist a girl to mutilate her own genitalia, and assist a non-UK national or UK national to undertake FGM of a UK national outside the UK (except on specific medical grounds).</p>

<p>Homelessness Act 2002</p> <p>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017</p>	<p>Housing Authorities are required to refer persons with dependent children who are ineligible for homelessness assistance or are homeless or threatened with homelessness intentionally to local authority children's social care, as long as the person consents. If unable to obtain consent, the Council can disclose information to Social Services if they believe the child is, or will be, at risk of significant harm.</p>
<p>Human Rights Act 1998</p>	<p>Sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to.</p>

