

6. REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING POLICY (2025)

1. Purpose

The Authority has a legal duty of care to provide a safe environment when children and vulnerable adults access our services. Members are asked to approve the revised Safeguarding Policy for 2025.

2. Context

2.1 The Authority has had a Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place for some time. An internal review of our safeguarding practices in autumn 2023 led to the formation of a Safeguarding Working Group, chaired by the Authority's Designated Safeguarding Officer.

2.2 Public bodies are required to have due regard to making arrangements to safeguard children and vulnerable adults when delivering their work. To demonstrate this, the policy is published on the Peak District National Park Authority website.

2.3 The Safeguarding Working Group meet quarterly to ensure we have effective policy and practices in place to deliver on our commitment to safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults who access our services.

2.4 The Senior Management Team and the Safeguarding Working Group have been consulted on the revised policy, and minor changes were made.

2.5 Changes from the 2023 version include:

- Clarity on the scope of the policy
- Our commitments have been made more succinct
- Responsibilities have been categorised in to Members, People Management service, Managers, and Everyone.
- The list of relevant legislation and guidance has been updated

3. Proposals

3.1 A recommendation from the Authority's Designated Safeguarding Officer's learning is that a review of the Safeguarding Policy is taken to the Programmes and Resources Committee annually for approval, and an Annual report on safeguarding activity is taken in April.

4. Recommendations

- 1. That the revised Safeguarding Policy (2025) be approved as Authority policy from 24 January 2025.**
- 2. That the Programmes and Resources Committee review the Safeguarding Policy on an annual basis to ensure it is up to date with both the Authority organisation and arrangements to deliver safeguarding, and with current legislation.**

5. Corporate Implications

a. Legal

Maintaining a safeguarding policy and having effective safeguarding procedures in place aligns with the range of legislation that requires various bodies to ensure that functions are discharged considering the need to safeguard and promote the welfare

of children and vulnerable adults. Establishing awareness and knowledge throughout the Authority will also ensure co-operation and collaboration with other organisations to ensure an effective multi-agency approach.

b. Financial

There are no additional financial implications, as funds are already allocated.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

This report demonstrates how we contribute to the NPMP Aim Three: Welcoming Place Objective 8: to create opportunities for young people and those from under served communities to connect with and enjoy the National Park, and Objective 9: to promote the National Park as a place where there are opportunities for the improvement of physical and mental health and wellbeing. As well as how it contributes to the Authority Plan Objective C – to have highly engaged, healthy and inclusive staff and volunteers, and in the delivery of the Diverse Audience Plan.

d. Risk Management

The risks of harm to children and vulnerable adults who access our services are mitigated by development of a Safeguarding policy, with good practice procedures in place, and specific training for key staff and volunteers. The governance arrangements include quarterly meetings of the Safeguarding Working Group and proposal to submit an annual report of safeguarding activity to the Programmes and Resources Committee, as well as an annual review of the Safeguarding Policy.

e. Net Zero

No issues

6. Background papers (not previously published)

none

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – the Final Draft Safeguarding Policy (2025)

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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