

# Public Document Pack

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**Our reference:**  
**Your reference:**  
**Date:** Wednesday, 14 July 2021

To all Members of the Communities Scrutiny Group

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group will be held on Thursday, 22 July 2021 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

This meeting will be accessible and open to the public via the live stream on YouTube and viewed via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>

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Yours sincerely



Sanjit Sull  
Monitoring Officer

## AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 April 2021 (Pages 1 - 6)
3. WISE: Environmental Crime Enforcement Update (Pages 7 - 12)

The report of the Director – Neighbourhoods is attached.

4. Safeguarding Adults and Children Strategy (Pages 13 - 24)

The report of the Director – Neighbourhoods is attached.

5. Work Programme (Pages 25 - 26)

The report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.



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## Membership

Chairman: Councillor J Wheeler

Vice-Chairman: Councillor B Bansal

Councillors: G Dickman, L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, F Purdue-Horan, R Walker and G Williams

## **Meeting Room Guidance**

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**Toilets:** Are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

**Mobile Phones:** For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

**Microphones:** When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

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**MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY GROUP  
THURSDAY, 29 APRIL 2021**

Held virtually at 7.00 pm and livestreamed on the  
Rushcliffe Borough Council YouTube channel

**PRESENT:**

Councillors J Wheeler (Chairman), B Bansal (Vice-Chairman), G Dickman, L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, D Simms, R Walker and G Williams

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
E Georgiou	Team Manager - Environment
H Tambini	Democratic Services Manager
L Webb	Democratic Services Officer

**APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies

**35 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**36 Minutes of the meeting 28 January 2021**

Councillor Jones referred to Minute 31 'Edwalton Golf Course Strategic Review' and referred to the sentence "... other leisure options had been considered but were not considered affordable" and suggested that the word 'consultants' should be added to that sentence to better reflect the issue that was raised, given that some members of the Group had challenged if that was a wide enough range of leisure activities.

Members of the Group were happy to support the suggested amendment to the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2021, were approved as a true record of the meeting, subject to the following amendment: to Minute 31:

"..... other leisure options had been considered by the consultants but were not considered affordable."

**37 Carbon Management Plan**

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods introduced a report, which summarised the work previously undertaken to bring the Carbon Management Plan forward, including the annual scrutiny of the Plan by this Group.

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods advised the Group that the report provided an update on the various workstreams, which had continued to be brought forward, in spite of the Covid pandemic. Reference was made to the development of a Carbon Clever Progress Dashboard, which provided a snapshot of progress in respect of the Council's carbon reduction commitments and moving towards its goal of becoming net zero by 2030. The Group was advised that going forward, the Dashboard would be updated and shared regularly with all Councillors, other interest groups and the public, to ensure transparency.

The Team Manager Environment delivered a presentation on the Carbon Management Plan Progress Update, which provided details on the following issues, and members of the Group were invited to make comments and observations on the presentation and report:

- Understanding different greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on the climate.
- Explaining what the different Carbon 'scopes' mean.
- How the Council was performing.
- Emerging opportunities
- Priorities for 2021/22.

Members of the Group thanked the Team Manager Environment for the comprehensive and informative presentation, which was extremely positive and in particular, welcomed the introduction of the Carbon Clever Progress Dashboard.

In answer to a question regarding the availability of the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 2 Funding, the Team Manager Environment advised that the allocation was available throughout the Midlands, and all the Nottinghamshire districts had accepted that allocation. The funding was to promote 'green' recovery, and to improve energy measures in owner occupied properties that had an E, F or G rating. Currently an area in East Leake was being considered, as it was easier to deliver a project in a more concentrated area of similar type housing.

In respect of the three Carbon Emission Scopes, the Group was advised that the Council had already made a commitment in relation to Scopes 1 and 2. In relation to Scope 3, which were indirect emissions and not under the Council's control, there was already some understanding of that; however, as the Council gained a better understanding, initially the amount of emissions would increase, as currently no data had been captured for the supply chain, and that would be the largest contributor.

In answer to a question regarding the importance of ensuring that residents continued to be made aware of the important role that everyone needed to play to reduce carbon emissions, the Team Manager Environment advised that a comprehensive Communications Plan was in place, which would highlight both the Council's carbon neutral activities and the progress being made, together with an emphasis on promoting behavioural change and ensuring that residents understood the important role that they must also take.

In respect of the 2019/20 data for the Dashboard, the Group was advised that although there had been some delay in collecting data due to Covid, it was hoped that it would be available over the next couple of months, and that would be added to the Dashboard and shared.

In answer to a question regarding the availability of data related to electric vehicle charging point usage, the Team Manager Environment confirmed that there was information available and that would be shared with the Group.

A member of the Group raised a concern and questioned the viability of the use of air source heat pumps and suggested that it was essential that the Council took a balanced approach, looked at all the available options and undertook a cost benefit analysis before committing to any scheme. The Team Manager Environment confirmed that Rushcliffe Country Park was the Council's exemplar site, where all the Council's testing and evaluations would take place and the Group was advised that a complete business case would be undertaken to identify the best options going forward for buildings across the Council's estate.

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods reiterated the previous comments and confirmed that the Council would continue to carry out a full business appraisal in respect of any new technology that it might wish to adopt. In respect of promoting schemes to residents, the Group was advised that the Council would be adopting a neutral stance, it would provide advice and support to the public and help them to make choices, given that the technology was continually changing. Looking ahead, it would be important to consider what infrastructure would be required at a strategic level to use and operate some of the new technologies, including hydrogen. The Group noted that the Council was involved in various groups across the county, via the Environmental Strategy Group and the Midlands Energy Hub, to ensure that it was at the centre of the development of those new technologies and infrastructures required to support them.

In answer to a question regarding the use of a solar canopy, officers stated that the canopy was made up of PV panels that could be used to charge a car and the drawings would be shared with the Group. The Group was informed that this was part of an innovative project with Nottingham City Council and a key partner, BP Chargemaster, and following a study, Gamston Community Hall car park had been identified as an excellent place to locate the canopy. It would therefore be part of the Council's infrastructure and an asset. The Group noted that currently work could not take place to set up the canopy, given that the Community Hall was being used as a vaccination centre. Once established, the Council would be encouraging other businesses including supermarkets to become involved and it was noted that local supermarkets were already expressing an interest in using electric car charging points.

Regarding the distribution of wildflower seeds to parish and town councils, the Team Manager Environment confirmed that seeds had been given to the West Bridgford Local Area Forum.

In answer to a question related to the reasons for the reduction in emissions since 2008, highlighted in the presentation, officers advised that before the

original Carbon Management Plan had been adopted, some significant changes had already occurred, including the move from the Civic Centre, and following on from that, the old Depot, both of which were old buildings, using old technology and were difficult to heat efficiently. The Council was constantly looking at ways to reduce its use of gas and electricity and reducing emissions across the Council's estate and vehicle fleet.

A member of the Group raised a number of issues related to Scope 3, including the control of externally managed leisure centres, and matters related to the granting of planning applications and asked what the Council could control. The Team Manager Environment advised that actions had been captured on the Carbon Management Plan, and officers would continue to review contracts, monitor KPIs and Supplementary Planning Documents, and work with all listed providers to improve energy efficiencies. The Group noted that the Council could influence but not directly control Scope 3 emissions, and therefore the Council's carbon neutral commitment focused on Scopes 1 and 2. Section B of the Plan related to how the Council could work with businesses and residents to influence others, and it was acknowledged that any changes to planning would require a change in national policy.

In answer to a further question regarding Scope 3 and how messages could be filtered through to town and parish councils, the rural sector and other organisations including Metropolitan Housing, the Team Manager Environment confirmed that officers were continually working with parish and town councils and other interested groups to help them reduce their carbon footprints and hopefully align to the Council's carbon neutral target and that work would continue, including the roll out of carbon literacy training. In respect of Streetwise, the Group was advised that officers were looking at its Environment Policy, and ways in which it could also align to the Council's carbon neutral target. The Team Manager Environment advised that Metropolitan Housing was referred to in the Carbon Management Plan, the organisation had been contacted regarding the LAD2 funding, and officers would work with them to ensure that properties were as energy efficient as possible. In conclusion, the Group was advised that issues related to farming had been captured in the Carbon Management Plan.

A member of the Group referred to the importance of ensuring that new homes were fit for purpose and as energy efficient as possible and suggested that the Council should encourage the Government to make the long awaited changes to building regulations to facilitate that. It would also be helpful if the Council could produce a document to assist potential homeowners, when choosing a property, to allow them to question developers regarding the environmental and ecological measures they used.

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods advised that the Council continually worked through various Government channels and representatives to monitor the speed of change in respect of national policy and legislation, and all local authorities were hoping to see this change in legislation brought through, to ensure that properties were fit for purpose going forward, and those regular discussions would continue. The Group was advised that officers would consider ways to assist new homeowners to ask the right questions, perhaps under the Carbon Clever marketing brand.

In conclusion, the Chairman referred to the importance of educating and encouraging people regarding the changes that they could make, and that small steps should be encouraged, as some people could initially be put off by the thought of having to make big changes, which would be more difficult. It was hoped that through a gradual change of mindset, improvements would continue to be made.

It was **RESOLVED** that the progress to date of the adopted Carbon Management Action Plan be noted and endorsed.

### 38 **Work Programme**

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods presented the report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services, which detailed the proposed Communities Scrutiny Group Work Programme for 2021/22. The Group was advised that currently there were a number of topics on the Scrutiny Matrix, which would further populate the Work Programme in due course.

The Chairman updated the Group on the continued progress of the Rushcliffe Equalities Scheme, following its consideration by the Group in August 2020 and January 2021. The feedback provided by the Group had been taken on board and the report would be considered by Cabinet on 11 May 2021. Members were thanked for their hard work and the importance of the scrutiny process was reiterated.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Work Programme detailed below be approved by the Communities Scrutiny Group:

July 2021

Safeguarding Adults and Children Strategy  
Work Programme

October 2021

Police Performance and Resources for Rushcliffe  
Work programme

January 2022

Housing Delivery Plan  
Work programme

April 2022

Carbon Management Plan  
Waste Strategy  
Work Programme

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT





## Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 22 July 2021

### WISE: Environmental Crime Enforcement Update

#### Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

##### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide an update on the Council's approach to environmental crime enforcement.
- 1.2. Councillors are asked to acknowledge and provide feedback on the report and the supporting presentation.
- 1.3. This item follows previous scrutiny at Communities Scrutiny Group in July 2020 and February 2021.

##### 2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group considers the information provided in the report and presentation and provides feedback on the Council's approach to tackling environmental crime.

##### 3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. To update the Group on the Council's approach to environmental crime enforcement which is a key function to support the delivery of the Corporate Priority on 'the Environment' and 'Quality of Life' as a clean Borough enhances how people feel about their local area and the protection of public health
- 3.2. The cleanliness of streets and open spaces is a high priority for local residents particularly with regard to dog fouling, littering and fly tipping.

##### 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. At its meeting on 23 July 2020, the Communities Scrutiny Group was given information on the level of fly tipping within Rushcliffe. Fly tipping continues to be an increasing problem within the Borough although it is recognised that this is not an issue unique to Rushcliffe and the increase is also reflected nationally.

Reported tips in Rushcliffe

18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
1266	1070	1391	165

4.2. The Group agreed the following recommendation:

“In light of an increase in fly tipping incidents in the Borough, it is recommended that the Chief Executive be asked in conjunction with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to review the resources deployed on enviro crime enforcement ahead of 2021/22 budget setting process with a view to providing suitable additional resource to cope with the increased workload”.

- 4.3. In looking at best practice elsewhere, it is recognised that the private sector can complement the services of local authority staff by offering a more targeted and cost-effective approach. Accordingly, the Council commenced a 12-month trial with a private sector partner, WISE, which is providing dedicated resources to undertake environmental crime enforcement on behalf of the Council. WISE staff have delegated authority to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) where offences have been detected. The trial is closely monitored including monthly formal review meetings and access to an operational dashboard of cases and their status. As a direct result of this monitoring processes have been changed to ensure the service reflects the needs of Rushcliffe residents and businesses.
- 4.4. Between 5 January and 28 June 2021, a total of 1,526 FPNs have been issued with 1,088 having been paid. The majority of FPNs have been issued in respect of littering simply because it is much easier to witness these offences taking place. However, over 150 FPNs have been issued in respect of fly tipping and/or commercial waste offences.
- 4.5. Inevitably there has been a significant increase in the number of prosecution cases arising from this approach, usually as a result of non-payment of the FPN. It should also be noted that this adds significantly to the workload within both Environmental Health and Legal Services. There are currently 15 prosecution files being reviewed.
- 4.6. The trial has been extensively publicised and public awareness is high. This has also driven an increasing workload as a result of service enquiries and feedback from local ward members which has helped to shape current service delivery arrangements.
- 4.7. WISE have also been used as an important element of the Council’s response to Covid 19 particularly in parks and open spaces which have seen an increase in littering and other unwanted behaviour.
- 4.8. Overall, as a result of the positive impact of the trial it is currently proposed with the support of the relevant portfolio holder that the trial with WISE be extended for an additional 12-months at which time it will be subject to formal procurement.

## 5. Risks and Uncertainties

As with all enforcement activity, there is the potential for criticism and negative feedback suggesting an overzealous approach to make a profit. This is closely monitored particularly in relation to the new WISE trial by officer's undertaking audit reviews and spot checks where necessary and supported by an appeals process.

## 6. Implications

### 6.1. Financial Implications

The cost of officer time spent on prosecutions is recouped from offenders through court proceedings. The income from fixed penalty notices will be collected by WISE which will retain 100% during the first month of the service and 95% from month two. The agreement is based on zero cost to the Council; however, the implications identified in 4.5 and 4.6 could result in increased officer time and subsequently a need for additional resources above what is currently budgeted for.

### 6.2. Legal Implications

All cases considered for prosecution will be subject to legal review with application of the relevant tests.

### 6.3 Equalities Implications

None identified

### 6.4 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

As with all regulatory enforcement, the Council works with our Community Safety partners to help support our crime and disorder obligations.

## 7. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	A clean Borough enhances how people feel about their local area and the protection of public health
Efficient Services	Maximising value by utilising private sector partners
Sustainable Growth	n/a
The Environment	Protecting the local environment by minimising environmental crime

## 8. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group considers the information provided in the report and presentation and provides feedback on the Council's approach to tackling environmental crime.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Dave Banks Director - Neighbourhoods 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Report to Communities Scrutiny Group 23 July 2020 "Litter, dog fouling and fly tipping (Part One – Fly Tipping)
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Fixed Penalty Levels

## Appendix – Fixed Penalty levels

Offence	Adopted full penalty (£)	Adopted discounted penalty (if paid within the discounted period) (£)
Littering	100	75
Graffiti	100	50
Fly posting	150	75
Unauthorised distribution of free literature on designated land	No areas are designated	n/a
Nuisance parking	100	60
Abandoned vehicles	200	120
Fly tipping	400	200
Household duty of care	300	150
Failure to produce a waste transfer note	300	180
Industrial and commercial waste receptacles offences	100	60
Failing to show waste documents	200	120
Littering from vehicles	100	75
Dog fouling	100	75
Community Protection Notice FPN	100	100
Domestic waste Receptacle Offences FPN	60	40

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## Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 22 July 2021

### Safeguarding Update

#### Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

##### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide an update on the Council's approach to safeguarding.
- 1.2. The Group is asked to acknowledge and provide feedback on the report and the supporting presentation.

##### 2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group considers the report and provides feedback on the Council's approach on safeguarding.

##### 3. Reasons for Recommendation

To update the Group on the Council's approach to safeguarding.

##### 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Council has adopted the Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council Children and Adults Safeguarding Policy which is available on the Council's website.
- 4.2 The aims of this Policy are as follows:
  - Ensure that concerns about abuse and neglect to children and adults at risk are reported promptly to the appropriate authorities.
  - Offer guidance and support to employees and volunteers to assist them in recognising and responding to indicators of possible abuse or neglect of a child or adult at risk.
  - Clarify the organisations role and responsibilities in protecting children from abuse and neglect and to ensure that its actions follow the appropriate guidance.
- 4.3 Led by Nottinghamshire County Council the Policy helps to ensure a consistent policy framework and is recognised and adopted by all Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils and their key partners. The principles of this Policy apply equally to children and young people, and adults

at risk. An adult at risk is a person aged 18 years or over who may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited. This may be because they have a health problem, a disability, a sensory impairment, are old and frail, or have some form of illness either mental or physical. Officers, contractors and volunteers supporting the Council should therefore recognise their responsibility to protect children, young people and adults at risk from all types of abuse. This can be achieved through maintaining a sound basis for recruitment, training and development, monitoring and adequate supervision which enables the Council to work together with other agencies and where appropriate parents/carers in making sure that the needs and welfare of these groups remain paramount.

- 4.4 More specifically the Council's duties include ensuring that employees are competent and confident in carrying out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults and children. This includes ensuring employees are aware of how to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns, including signs of possible maltreatment, abuse or neglect. This is particularly relevant for certain public facing services such as environmental health, planning etc where officers will be visiting homes and workplaces. Knowing when and in what circumstances to report concerns to the County wide Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the critical role. In discharging this responsibility, the Council ensures that all staff undertake mandatory awareness training / e-learning and also additional training when appropriate, for example in the last year this has included training on coercive control.

## **5. Children**

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on the Council to make arrangements for ensuring that its functions and services are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In meeting this responsibility, the Council must undertake a self-assessment audit which is provided in the Appendix.

## **6. Adults**

- 6.1 The Care Act 2014 requires that an upper tier local authority must co-operate with each of its relevant partners, and each relevant partner must co-operate with the upper tier local authority in relation to relevant functions, one of which is specifically stated as protecting adults with care and support needs who are currently experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect. It is this part of the legislation which places the requirement on the Council to act in cases of suspected neglect or abuse.
- 6.2 Adult safeguarding is managed through the NSAB (Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board) which is made up of representatives from various organisations including the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, NHS, local authorities and voluntary organisations. Their main responsibility is to work together to help adults who may have been abused and to help prevent such abuse. The NSAB meets with a wider partnership of agencies including



District Council's twice a year to check the Board's progress, provide support and guidance to the Board, and to raise awareness of key issues relating to safeguarding. Through this mechanism wider partnership members have the opportunity to contribute to the overall strategic direction of safeguarding adults in Nottinghamshire. As a result of this collaborative working with multi-agency partnerships across Nottinghamshire, the NSAB are able to focus on prevention and improving strategic links particularly in relation to; carers, social isolation, fraud against the vulnerable and self-neglect.

- 6.3 Recently NSAB has decided to create an interim one-year plan rather than the usual three-year strategic plan. This gives the Board the flexibility to respond at pace to the challenges facing partners in responding to rapidly changing Covid-19 pressures.
- 6.4 In this manner the Board will be able to complete outstanding actions from 2020/21 and begin to shape new work streams and priorities. In consultation with their partners the Board has also agreed the following three strategic priorities for the plan:
- Quality Assurance (QA);
  - Prevention (P); and
  - Engagement (E).
- 6.5 Covid-19 has unsurprisingly had a marked impact on referral numbers in 2020-21 as there were 6,698 Safeguarding Referrals which is 884 (15%) more than the previous year, this being the most safeguarding referrals on record.
- 6.6 A more positive development is that the MASH is now receiving a higher proportion of referrals that meet the criteria of Section 42 Care Act enquiry which has increased from up to 43% to 47% this year. The higher proportion of such referrals mean that more resource at the MASH can be focused on supporting those most at risk of abuse and neglect.
- 6.7 The most prevalent type of abuse in Rushcliffe is neglect; however, this remains below the County average at 28%. The majority of other abuse types are at similar rates to the average within Nottinghamshire. The data is used to shape the Board's response to abuse and neglect in Nottinghamshire and this helps to ensure the wider partnership will benefit from targeted learning opportunities and communications to reflect the most prevalent type of abuse.
- 6.8 The proportion of neglect and organisational abuse associated with enquiries received by the MASH decreased when the restrictions were announced by 8% and 4.8% respectively. This is a significantly higher decrease when compared regionally and nationally.
- 6.9 However, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of domestic abuse, which more than doubled to 12.1% of all enquiries. This was similar to the national trend, with 27% of local authorities noting an increase, but the average remained relatively static regionally.

## **7. Risks and Uncertainties**

None identified.

## **8. Implications**

### **8.1 Financial Implications**

The fulfilment of the Council's safeguarding responsibilities is contained in the annual budget setting process.

### **8.2 Legal Implications**

Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is an important part of the Council fulfilling its statutory duties.

### **8.3 Equalities Implications**

The Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council Children and Adults Safeguarding Policy has been subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment and equality considerations have been incorporated into its development. The monitoring of the Policy, and in particular referral data is also reviewed from an equality perspective to identify any specific needs or concerns, which can then be highlighted and actioned through the Boards plan and by the wider partnership.

### **8.4 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is an important part of the Council fulfilling its statutory duties and wider community safety responsibilities.

## **9. Link to Corporate Priorities**

Quality of Life	The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults and Children Policy has a direct impact on our resident's quality of life providing vital support for our most vulnerable residents.
Efficient Services	The reporting arrangements detailed in the Policy and via the MASH help to ensure that public sector services are working efficiently and effectively to discharge their duties and help to protect those most at risk.
Sustainable Growth	NA
The Environment	NA

## **10. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group considers the report and provides feedback on the Council's approach on safeguarding.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	David Banks Director - Neighbourhoods 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	<a href="https://nottsdistrict.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html#ch_young">https://nottsdistrict.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html#ch_young</a>
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Section 11 Self-Assessment Audit 2021

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## Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnerships

### Section 11 self-assessment audit 2021

#### Introduction

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnerships safeguarding arrangements are established in line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Completion of the Section 11 self-assessment (every two years) by the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies is required as part of the partnership's responsibilities to ensure that organisations have in place appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures and that they are complying with the expectations placed on them by the safeguarding arrangements.

[Section 11 of the Children Act 2004](#) places duties on a range of organisations, agencies and individuals 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. (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).

For guidance to assist in completion of this self-assessment please see appendix one. Where organisations indicate partial or non-compliance with a particular standard the actions planned to move towards full compliance should be specified within the return and each partnership will in due course follow-up progress against those plans.

Name of organisation completing the form:

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Date completed:

June 2021

Notes: Equality and Diversity is integral to Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) work therefore is expected to be a thread running through all evidence submitted.				
Please provide a self-assessment of each area of assurance using the RAG rating (RED being No assurance; AMBER being partial assurance; GREEN being full assurance) to state the current position of the organisation. Please note that not all sections will apply to every organisation and if any do not apply to your organisation please enter not applicable in the corresponding RAG rating cell				
	Standard	RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green	Evidence to support position	Action required to improve position
1	<b>Leadership and Organisational Accountability</b>			
1.1	The organisation can demonstrate clear lines of accountability for safeguarding children within their organisation. Including identified leads for safeguarding and that the workforce know where details are located and how to contact them.	Green	Safeguarding lead / contact officers is within the Safeguarding Policy available on the council's intranet	
1.2	All organisations should provide strategic leadership for the safeguarding agenda to enable the board to meet its statutory duties	Green	Rushcliffe Council safeguarding steering group is attended by internal services as well as key external delivery partners and is chaired by an Executive Manager	
1.3	Ensure that safeguarding children is core business within the organisation's strategic/operating plans/and structures	Green	RBC holds internal steering group meetings scheduled after NSCB District sub-group meetings to support the cascade of information. E-mail alerts are cascaded to relevant service area managers.	The NSCB meetings have been paused so staff could support the response to the Covid pandemic, plans are in place to restart these meeting in mid-2021
2	<b>Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews</b>	RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green	Evidence to support position	Action required to improve position
2.1	Organisations engage fully with Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews/ Rapid Reviews and contribute as required	Green	Officer attend the joint safeguarding children's partnership forum and contribute where required	

2.2	CSPR Reports and action plans are reported to organisational senior leadership team	Green	Executive Manager for Neighbourhoods is the designated lead safeguarding officer and attends internal safeguarding meetings which feeds directly into the senior leadership team	
2.3	Learning identified through CSPRs that has implications on practice in your organisation is effectively disseminated, identified recommendations are implemented and the impact on improving outcomes is evaluated.	Green	Learning identified through CSPR is shared with the internal steering groups and implications on practice and recommendations are disseminated through the organisation where appropriate	
3	<b>Safer Working Practices</b>	<b>RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green</b>	<b>Evidence to support position</b>	<b>Action required to improve position</b>
3.1	Organisation has a policy in place regarding allegations that an employee may be harming or be a risk to a child/ren.	Amber	RBC have a confidential whistle policy in place for staff to report the conduct of staff to HR	This document is not explicit regarding allegations that an employee may be harming or a risk to a child and could be updated to incorporate this standard
3.2	Organisation has Named Senior Officer (NSO) as a strategic lead, to manage allegations against staff who work with children	Green	Executive Manager neighbourhoods is the designated lead safeguarding officer	
3.3	Organisation has safe recruitment policies in place which confirm that relevant staff have: DBS check; confirmed employment history, professional registration & qualification, the right to work in the UK, and identity check.	Green	Safe recruitment policy in place, Posts requiring DBS checks held by human resources department and activated when recruitment undertaken. The right to work in the UK and identity check are all undertaken as standard recruitment practices.	
3.4	All staff contracts/person specifications include a clause regarding safeguarding children, roles and responsibilities	Green	Employee Code of Conduct incorporates safeguarding expectations	
3.5	The organisation has an effective whistle-blowing policy that ensures staff & service users can raise issues of concern relating to safeguarding children	Green	Council complaints procedure is available on the internet home page.	

4	Training	RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green	Evidence to support position	Action required to improve position
4.1	Organisation has a training strategy in place that includes safeguarding children training at appropriate levels. The training programme is appropriately funded.	Amber	Training strategy incorporates level of generic training for all staff and specialised training identified through annual appraisal process	Programme for staff to re-complete e-learning to be undertaken during 2021/22. Delivery of 'tool-box talks' for front line staff to take place in autumn 2021/22.
4.2	Staff understand local thresholds and how to access services at the appropriate level of need in compliance with "Pathway to Provision" (County) and Family Support Pathway (City)	Amber	The internal steering group share training opportunities to teams that work with children	Updated audit of staff to be undertaken during 2021/22 with Training needs identified through PDR/121 process
5	Supervision	RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green	Evidence to support position	Action required to improve position
5.1	Professionals involved in day to day work with children and families should have child safeguarding supervision to promote good standards of practice and support individuals staff members	Green	Corporate commitment to hold regular 1-2-1's between staff and supervisors where safeguarding cases can be reviewed as required	
6	Policies and Procedures	RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green	Evidence to support position	Action required to improve position
6.1	The organisation has child protection policies and procedures in place that reflect national guidance and LSCP procedures. These must apply to all young people up to their 18th birthday (older for children with disabilities and Children in Care)	Green	RBC has adopted the Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council Children and Adult Safeguarding Policy which is annually updated to reflect national guidance	
6.2	Organisation must be able to demonstrate that it responds to domestic abuse in accordance with National and NSCP/NCSCP procedures and practice guidance	Green	Care pathway through Women's Aid Integrated Services	



6.3	Organisation must be able to demonstrate that it responds to all forms of child exploitation & harmful sexual behaviour in accordance with NSCP/NCSCP procedures and practice guidance.	Green	Records of incidents and referrals to MASH are made and stored securely	
6.4	Organisation must be able to demonstrate that it responds to PREVENT in accordance with HM Government and NSCP/NCSCP procedures and practice guidance.	Amber	Prevent training delivered to middle and senior managers. CSE training through e-learning and delivered to taxi drivers as part of licencing process	Review the last time that prevent training has been delivered at to the Leadership forum and deliver to staff in 2021/22
6.5	Organisation must have in place systems that can measure the effectiveness and outcomes of safeguarding practice within record keeping.	Green	Records of incidents and referrals to MASH are made and stored securely	
<b>7</b>	<b>Whole Family / Think family approach</b>	<b>RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green</b>	<b>Evidence to support position</b>	<b>Action required to improve position</b>
7.1	Organisation adopts a "Whole Family" approach.	Green	RBC Safeguarding steering group members represent services covering children, vulnerable adults and community safety	
7.2	Organisation must demonstrate that they are working within the national and local guidance for Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence and guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) including mandatory reporting.	Green	This has not arisen, but would be resourced accordingly	
<b>8</b>	<b>Voice of the child</b>	<b>RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green</b>	<b>Evidence to support position</b>	<b>Action required to improve position</b>
8.1	Organisation must demonstrate that children and young people contribute to the planning, delivery and evaluation of services and that their views have made a difference.	Green	RBC commissions a project (Positive Futures and YouNG) where young people are consulted and engaged through a variety of methods with quarterly reporting on issue and performance	
<b>9</b>	<b>Additional local standards</b>	<b>RAG Rating Red/ Amber /Green</b>	<b>Evidence to support position</b>	<b>Action required to improve position</b>

9.1	The organisation ensures that staff participate in multi-agency meetings or forums to share information and contribute effectively in the planning to safeguard children	Green	Meetings attended on request	
9.2	Impact of Covid19 Pandemic – The organisation has a) assessed, identified and mitigated for any organisational safeguarding risk arising from the pandemic b) has a plan in place to respond to needs going forward as we come out of the pandemic?	Amber	An assessment of the impact of COVID 19 pandemic to safeguarding is required	The district council safeguarding meeting which is due to recommence will provide the authority best practice on identifying the safeguarding risk coming out of Covid and provide examples of how these risk have been mitigated across the county as we come out of the pandemic

Please return the completed audit by: 21- 06-2021  
Please return this audit to: [Info.nscp@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:Info.nscp@nottsc.gov.uk)

 <p><b>Rushcliffe</b> Borough Council</p>	<p><b>Communities Scrutiny Group</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, 22 July 2021</b></p> <p><b>Work Programme</b></p>
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## **Report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The work programme is a standing item for discussion at each meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group. In determining the proposed work programme due regard has been given to matters usually reported to the Group and the timing of issues to ensure best fit within the Council's decision making process.
- 1.2. The table does not take into account any items that need to be considered by the Group as special items. These may occur, for example, through changes required to the Constitution or financial regulations, which have an impact on the internal controls of the Council.
- 1.3. The future work programme will be updated and agreed at the next meeting of the Corporate Overview Group on 2 November 2021, including any items raised via the scrutiny matrix.

### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group agrees the work programme as set out below:

#### **7 October 2021**

- Police Performance and Resources for Rushcliffe
- Community Facilities and Assets
- Work Programme

#### **27 January 2022**

- Housing Delivery Plan
- Tree Conservation
- Work Programme

#### **28 April 2022**

- Waste Strategy
- Carbon Management Plan
- Work Programme

### 3. Reason for Recommendation

To enable the Council's scrutiny arrangements to operate efficiently and effectively.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Peter Linfield Director – Finance and Corporate Services 0115 914 8349 <a href="mailto:plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk">plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers Available for Inspection:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices (if any):</b>	None