

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 23 SEPTEMBER 2009

**POSITION STATEMENT FROM CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR ADULT
SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**

Safeguarding Adults: Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

- Safeguarding adults who are vulnerable to abuse in our communities is one of the most important responsibilities of this Council. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Robust multi-agency arrangements are in place and an external inspection in April 2008 by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (now the Care Quality Commission) judged that the Adult Social Care Service was Good in Safeguarding. However, the challenge is to ensure that safeguarding principles and practice inform the work of the whole Council.
- To support this, a summary of roles and responsibilities in the Council in relation to safeguarding adults has been produced. This will be considered by Cabinet on the 6 October 2009. It will also be included in a seminar for Members on safeguarding (Children and Adults) to be held on the 27 October 2009. I would strongly encourage all Members to attend this Seminar.

Valuing People Now

- I would like to draw all County Council Members' attention to the Valuing People Now Strategy for people with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities are entitled to the same aspirations and life chances as other people.
- In Leicestershire, we have invested in our day services and short break facilities to ensure that people with learning disabilities can enjoy good quality of life. Although we have made real progress, there is still a lot to do – and that is why I am asking Council to restate our commitment to leading change and improving the lives and opportunities for people with learning disabilities. These people are most often excluded from society. That is why it must be our priority across the Council to support more people with learning disabilities to benefit from our services, to support them into real jobs and settled homes.
- Leicestershire is well represented in leading the regional delivery of Valuing People Now; I chair the Regional Learning Disabilities Programme Board and Mick Connell, Director of Adult Social Care and Health is an active member of this Board. Locally, we are working with colleagues in

the NHS, Leicestershire Police and the district councils, to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to a whole range of public services.

- You are invited to attend a briefing session on Valuing People Now on the 3 November 2009 at 11 am in the Council Chamber and I would encourage you to take this opportunity to discover more of what we are developing locally and how you as a local member can play an important role in making a difference in the lives of people with learning disabilities.

Older People's Champions in Leicestershire

- Locally and in partnership with the University Hospitals of Leicester Leicestershire County Council has launched a countywide Older People's Champions network to drive the dignity message, promote good practice amongst providers of care services and ensure that dignity remains a priority in all areas of practice.
- The campaign is recruiting and supporting older people's dignity champions who will be key in raising awareness of dignity in care, challenging poor practice and driving up the quality of care and the well being of older people in Leicestershire.
- The campaign is asking local providers of services to sign up to the local Dignity in Care Charter and pledge their commitment to providing services that meet the Dignity Challenges.
- The campaign was initially launched across Nursing & Residential care services with the intention being for the Older People's Champions network to expand across other service areas including those provided by Borough and District Councils.
- An Older People's Member Champions Network has been established incorporating Members' of the seven District/Borough Councils. I am happy to say that they have attended a training event and are now officially Older People's Champions.
- In 2009/10, the County Council in conjunction with Leicester City Council were successful in being awarded two years funding (£85k) to further progress the work in relation to Dignity in Care so that we can further promote the above work and lead it in the East Midlands. We have developed a Strategic Programme Board to oversee this work.