

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting10th January 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

A Safe Place for Children

2. Record of the Decision

Members received a report that provided information that Stockton Local Safeguarding Children's Board (SLSCB) had drawn up guidance, A Safer Place for Children, for member agencies to promote the safety of children in public settings such as libraries and neighbourhood centres.

Members were provided with the following information:-

Public settings such as libraries, neighbourhood centres and sports centres could be dynamic and exciting places for children, providing relevant and accessible services. To enable these services to flourish it was essential that they are a safe place for children who use them. Children should feel safe and secure and know that they would receive suitable help if required.

A Safer Place for Children had been produced by SLSCB to support organisations responsible for such settings to create an appropriately safe environment. The guidance had been written specifically for managers of public settings who require a framework to assist them in the development of policies and procedures to promote the safety of children.

A policy promoting the safety of children is one of the foundations of a well managed service. Rather than reacting to particular difficulties or threats, organisations should seek to proactively create an environment in which children feel comfortable and safe where their self confidence can grow.

It was important that all agencies working with children were seen to create safe public settings within the community which take the issue of children's safety seriously.

Such settings should also make information available to parents to ensure the safety of their children when using the facilities. This should

include details of who to contact if they have concerns on a number of issues such as:

- „X Child abuse and neglect
- „X Bullying
- „X Forced marriage
- „X Sexual exploitation
- „X E-safety

RESOLVED that:-

1. A Safer Place for Children guidance be adopted.
2. Delegate responsibility for approving amended policies covering the various public settings run by or on behalf of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to the relevant Corporate Director and Lead Cabinet Member, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Children Education and Social Care.
3. Reasons for the Decision

A Safer Place for Children guidance had been approved by SLSCB and all member agencies had therefore been requested to review current policies in the light of this.
4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

none
5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

none
6. Details of any Dispensations

none
7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 18th January 2013

Proper Officer

14 January 2013