

Scrutiny Review of Protection of Property

Summary

The first evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Protection of Property will consider information from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate.

Detail

1. Further to the Committee's approval of the scope and plan for the review of Protection of Property at its last meeting in July 2026, the SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate was asked to provide an initial submission addressing the following:
 - *Legal definitions / interpretations (including 'reasonable steps' and 'moveable property' as per Section 47 of the Care Act 2014)*
 - *Identification of eligible individuals*
 - *Support provided (including how long this is required / when it should end, and the capacity of Adult Social Care Financial Services (ASCFS) team and what visits to properties entail)*
 - *Data on / costs associated with this support*
 - *Recovering costs – how done, what has been claimed back, who pays?*
 - *How does the Council promote / raise awareness of this duty?*
 - *Service evaluation – has it developed over time, is feedback sought from those whose property has been protected?*
2. A report has been prepared and is included within these meeting papers. Relevant SBC officers are scheduled to be in attendance to provide an overview of the submission and respond to any comments / questions.
3. Ahead of this first evidence session, Members may wish to familiarise themselves with:
 - Care Act 2014 (Section 47)
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/section/47>
 - tri.x (Safeguarding Adults Board Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures):
https://www.proceduresonline.com/templates/adultsg/web/p_protect_property.html
 - SBC Adult Social Care Financial Services (ASCFS):
<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/adult-social-care-financial-services>
4. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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