

REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON 14 MAY 2008

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To ask the Council to note that the review of the Moray Council Child Protection Policy has been undertaken as part of the process of the preparation of the Annual Report of the Moray Chief Officer Group for Child Protection.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A59 of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to formulating and reviewing Council wide policy, strategies, priorities and objectives in standards and levels of service.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that members note that a review of the Moray Council Child Protection Policy has been undertaken as part of the process of preparing the Annual report and Business Plan of the Chief Officer Group For Child Protection.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Moray Council Child Protection Policy and Guidelines were approved at the Policy and Resources Committee on Wednesday 27 September 2006. The policy and guidelines covers child protection for the entire Council and includes elected members, staff and volunteers across all of its services.

3.2 The Policy requires that an annual review of the Policy be undertaken.

3.3 The Moray Chief Officer Group for Child Protection formed in late 2006 has compiled their first Annual Report 2007/8 and Business Plan 2008/9. The report contributes to the ongoing review of policies across the partner agencies in this group.

3.4 The Chief Officers group are producing an Annual Report and Business Plan that highlights the key achievements during 2007/2008 and developments planned for 2008/09 structured around the review around the 9 headings from the Scottish Government's 'Protecting Children and Young peoples –Child Protection Committees'. There were no issues raised during the preparation of the annual report and business plan on the Child Protection Policy or guidelines. There is no need to make any changes to the Policy.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

It is a priority of The Corporate Plan to ensure “effective inter agency and inter disciplinary co-ordination for planning and delivery of Children’s Services”. The policy provides a good foundation for further developing inter agency and inter disciplinary co-ordination particularly around child protection. The Moray Community Planning Partnership through “The Children’s and Young Peoples Partnership endorsed the policy. The Moray Chief Officer Child Protection group has discussed the policy with a view to developing similar policies across the key agencies involved in Child Protection.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Child Protection Policy fits within the context of the broad Child Protection legislative framework and Scottish Executive guidelines and supports our commitments to these, which include: The United Nations Rights of the Child, The Children Scotland Act 1995 and The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are no financial, staffing or property implications arising from this report however there is a risk that if the Policy is not reviewed regularly it may not reflect current practice and legislation.

(d) Consultations

The Moray Chief Officer Child Protection Group has been consulted and is in agreement with the contents of this report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That members note the review of the Moray Council Child Protection Policy has been undertaken as part of the process of preparing the annual report of the Moray Chief Officer Group for Child Protection.

Author of Report:

Background Papers:

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