

# **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**4 JUNE 2018**

### **1. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Committee considers and approves the attached scoping document for the review of safeguarding (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 THAT, subject to 1.1 above, the Committee establishes a working group to take forward the review of safeguarding.

### **2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The Committee is asked to give consideration to the subject of its next scrutiny review and the attached scoping document (Appendix 1), with a view to initiating a review of safeguarding, and the establishment of a working group.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The terms of reference for Scrutiny Committee state that it will carry out a maximum of two scrutiny reviews per annum. Such reviews will be member-led and evidence based and will produce SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely) recommendations to the Fire Authority.
- 3.2 West Midlands Fire Service has a duty to safeguard our communities during our prevention, protection and response duties. The Service also has a duty to safeguard its employees where relevant. As a provider of services to adults with care and support needs, through the alternatively funded services, the contracts also require the Service to be compliant with the relevant safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance
- 3.3. Recent self-assessments requested via Safeguarding Adults

and Children's Boards and a multi-agency review following a prohibition of a large premise housing families have highlighted some initial areas for improvement in compliance with policy, process and practice. It has therefore been suggested that the Scrutiny Committee may wish to undertake a review of the appropriate SET member ownership and effectiveness of safeguarding policy, procedures and practice.

#### 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. This report is responding directly to the services duty to safeguard children, young people and adults with care and support needs under the Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise any issues which should be drawn to the attention of the monitoring officer.

The recommendations outlined in this report will assist the Service under its duties in the Care Act 2014 and in meeting its alternatively funded contractual arrangements.

#### 6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, if a decision is taken to use an external provider during the course of the review, any financial costs will be met from within existing budgets.

#### 7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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