

Agenda item 5

For decision – approve the Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection policy and a temporary Volunteer policy for the coronavirus outbreak

Author: Laura Flaherty, Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor

Summary

The ‘Child and Vulnerable Protection Policy’ is Chapter 21 of the Frome Town Council constitution. As with all chapters within the constitution it is regularly reviewed.

Since the crisis around COVID – 19 and the additional areas of work FTC have become involved in it has come more apparent that we needed a more robust safeguarding policy. Therefore, the policy, at [Appendix 1](#), put forward for recommendation has been rewritten to cover safeguarding in more depth. Our current policy is at [Appendix 2](#) for comparison.

This policy will be reviewed again in one years’ time.

Recommendations

1. Adopt the new Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy
2. Note Laura Flaherty, Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor as Safeguarding Officer and Kate Hellard, Community Development Manager, as Deputy Safeguarding Officer
3. Require all staff and Cllrs to read and be familiar with the policy

Temporary volunteer policy

Summary

In response to the national crisis and the effect on the town, one of Frome Town Council’s responses was to put a call out for volunteers to help the vulnerable in the community.

At the time of writing this report we have had over 315 people volunteer to help in the community. The most crucial use of these volunteers has been to provide bespoke shopping for vulnerable members of the community who have been advised not to leave their homes.

Previously FTC had not worked with volunteers on this scale and it became apparent we required a volunteer policy specifically relating to the work necessary because of coronavirus. It is a temporary policy and staff and Cllrs should revert to the current volunteer policy [here](#) once the lockdown period is over. The usual policy will be reviewed again in October 2020.

The temporary policy can be found at [Appendix 3](#).

Recommendation

1. Adopt the ‘Temporary Volunteer Policy during the Coronavirus Outbreak’