WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL	**Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 8 May 2013**	**Agenda Item No. 9**

Title	Safeguarding Children Action Plan Update
For further information about this report please contact	Jameel Malik Head of Housing & Property Services 01926 456403 jameel.malik@warwickdc.gov.uk
Wards of the District directly affected	All
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Executive 14/9/11 -minute 59
Background Papers	Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board Audit of compliance with Section 11 of Children Act 2004

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	**Date**	**Name**
Chief Executive	26.04.13	Chris Elliott
Deputy Chief Executive	26.04.13	Bill Hunt
Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer	26.04.13	Andrew Jones
Head of Housing and Property Services	26.04.13	Author
Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer	26.04.13	Mike Snow
Service Area Managers	26.04.13	Various
Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services	26.04.13	Councillor Vincett
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Not applicable.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Safeguarding Children Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee should review the updates in the Action Plan as set out at Appendix One and make observations on it as appropriate.

2.2 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee request Executive to appoint an Elected Member Champion for Children's Safeguarding.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It was agreed that Overview and Scrutiny Committee would monitor progress in delivering the Action Plan.

3.2 The previous Portfolio Holder for Cultural Service was the Member Champion for Children's Safeguarding. However since the change in Portfolio Holder it is now proposed that Executive agree to appoint a replacement.

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 The Council's safeguarding functions in respect of children are primarily statutory requirements as set out in the Children Act 2004 and associated statutory guidance.

4.2 The Act imposes a duty to co-operate on named organisations, including district councils, to improve children's well-being and lists the 5 intended outcomes of the well-being agenda as:

- Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being
- Protection from Harm and Neglect
- Education, Training and Recreation
- Contribution to Society
- Social and Economic Well-Being

4.3 Delivery of these outcomes is entirely consistent with delivery of the Council's Vision to make Warwick District a great place to live work and visit and with the principles underpinning the Sustainable Community Strategy, designed to deliver that Vision.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

5.1 The budgetary implications of the Action Plan are minimal and will be accommodated within existing staff resources.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

6.1 As this report is not concerned with recommending a particular option in preference to others this section is not applicable.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 Executive agreed that progress would be monitored on the actions contained in the Action Plan.

7.2 The Head of Housing and Property Services has now taken on full responsibility for Safeguarding Children on behalf of the Council. He will act as the Council's Officer "Champion" and will work with the Member "Champion" to develop and deliver a comprehensive improvement plan for Safeguarding Children.

7.3 The Head of Housing and Property Services will carry out a comprehensive review of all Safeguarding Children policies and procedures and will identify best practice with close liaison with other agencies.

7.4 Training was one of the key elements identified in the previous Executive report. The Head of Housing and Property Services will, in conjunction with the Learning and Development Officer, review and develop a refreshed training initiative at corporate level to take this forward as a high priority.

7.5 The Action Plan will be monitored on a regular basis by the Service Improvement Officer to ensure that all the actions in the plan are delivered by the due dates. The Service Improvement Officer will provide challenge to the Officers responsible for the actions.

7.6 Regular updates will be provided to the Head of Housing and Property Services and to the Portfolio Holder for Housing on the status of the Action Plan. I

7.8 Members will see that there are a number of actions in the action plan where the target dates have been revised. An assessment of the risk of delaying these actions has been carried out and in the Officer's view we remain statutorily compliant and are not compromising our responsibilities or duties as required in the legislation. It also appears that some of the original due dates may have been unrealistic and these have been revised accordingly.