



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Belfast City Council Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults
Date:	18 th August, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Liam Steele, Head of Committee & Members' Services
Contact Officer:	Robin Boyd, Members' Support Officer Julie Lilley, Members' Liaison Officer

Relevant Background Information

The Strategic Policy Resources Committee, at its meeting on 7th August, adopted the Council's amended policy and procedures on the protection of children and vulnerable adults. In addition, it authorised the engagement of the Council in the Leisurewatch initiative which aims to raise the awareness of staff at an early stage to potential sex offenders who may come onto Council premises to gain access to children.

The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, agreed that consideration be given to the provision of appropriate training for Elected Members on the Council's revised policy and that a report thereon be submitted to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Proposed Actions

In accordance with the Council's decision, provision of awareness training on the protection of children and vulnerable adults will be included in the Members' Training Plan for 2010/2011.

I have been advised that the delivery of such sessions would best be undertaken early next year as, at this time, the awareness sessions could include details of the related Leisurewatch programme.

Staff training on these issues is the responsibility of the Community Services Section and is undertaken by staff who are accredited child protection trainers. The proposed Members' awareness sessions will be developed by the Members' Support Unit in consultation with the designated lead officer, Blanche Thompson, Play Development Officer, and will be undertaken by the aforementioned accredited staff.

Resource ImplicationsFinancial

Minimal, since training will be provided by Council officers.

Human Resources

None.

Asset and Other Implications

None.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the inclusion in the Members Training Plan of awareness sessions on the protection of children and vulnerable adults as outlined in the report.

Decision Tracking

Mr Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services, will, by 31st January, 2010, make provision in the Members Training Plan 2010/2011 for awareness sessions on the protection of children and vulnerable adults.