

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:
3 December 2008**

Subject: Leisure Services Child Protection Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Leisure Services Child Protection Policy.

2. Background

- 2.1** During the Best Value review of Leisure Services it was identified that there was a requirement for Leisure Services to develop a service specific Child Protection Policy.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The purpose of the policy is to demonstrate Leisure Services commitment to providing and maintaining a service which protects children from harm as well as protecting the organisation and its employees from potential allegations.
- 3.2** Leisure Services benchmarked with other leisure providers and with National Sporting bodies to create the initial draft of the policy. Thereafter extensive consultation took place internally with West Dunbartonshire Social Work Department and Education Services.
- 3.3** Following the consultation process the amended draft policy was reviewed by the Child Protection Committee in May 2008. All comments advised by the committee were incorporated into the policy.
- 3.4** An Equality Impact Assessment was completed in August 2008 with some minor changes being made to the final policy and staff training content.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** A training session on the policy has been devised and will be rolled out across the service to all employees.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** An integrated impact assessment of the policy was carried out in August 2008. A copy of the summary assessment report is attached as Appendix B.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** Leisure Services management recognised the need for a service specific Child Protection Policy to ensure the services provided within the Council Leisure Facilities offer protection to children using the facilities and to staff.
- 7.2** The final policy document has been the result of benchmarking and partnership working internally and outwith the Council.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** It is recommended that the Committee:

(a) approve the Leisure Services Child Protection Policy attached as Appendix A;

(b) delegate authority to the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development to take appropriate steps to implement the policy as soon as practicable.

Elaine Melrose

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Date: 10 November 2008

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Appendices: Appendix A - Leisure Services Child Protection Policy
Appendix B - Impact Assessment Summary Report

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All