

Key roles in safeguarding: The duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is applicable corporately across the authority, however, some services can play an important role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as part of their day-to-day work – recognising child welfare issues, sharing information, making referrals and subsequently managing or reducing risks

- Community Safety
- Troubled Families project
- Planning
- Enforcement Services
- Housing and Housing Advice services
- Environmental Health
- Benefits
- Revenues
- Health Projects
- Licensing
- Community voluntary activities
- Providing services to young people

These are just some examples of how your role may interact with the Council's safeguarding duty:

Community Safety

- Through daily Police intelligence received at the daily tasking and co-ordination meetings with the Police, KCC Community Wardens, Housing Association and other partner agencies.
- Through the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and visits to family homes
- Multi-agency troubled family project led by Kent County Council – involves regular contact with both vulnerable children and adults. Many of these families are experiencing multiple issues, for example worklessness, absence from school and involvement in anti-social behaviour. It should be noted that Kent County Council is producing separate guidance on Safeguarding for staff involved in this project.

Housing

- Day-to-day contact with members of the public and with families may become aware of concerns about the welfare of particular children or vulnerable adults.
- Day-to-day contact with families and tenants, may become aware of needs or welfare issues that they can either tackle directly (for instance, by making repairs or adaptations to homes) or by assisting the family in accessing help through other organisations.
- Housing authorities are key to the assessment of the needs of families with disabled children, who may require housing adaptations in order to participate fully in family life and reach their maximum potential.

- Front-line emergency role – for instance, managing re-housing or repossession when adults and children become homeless, or at risk of homelessness, as a result of domestic violence.

Environmental Health

- Environmental health officers inspecting conditions in private rented housing may become aware of conditions that impact adversely on children. Under Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004, authorities will take account of the impact of health and safety hazards in housing on vulnerable occupants, including children, when deciding on the action to be taken by landlords to improve conditions.

Planning

- Planning and enforcement employees, in their day-to-day site visits may become aware of needs or welfare issues.

Housing Benefits

- Housing Benefits officers will need to have regard to the Council's duty to safeguard children and young people, particularly where direct claims are made by 16 and 17 year olds.

Revenues

- Revenue Officers may become concerned about the welfare of children and vulnerable adults when dealing with customers in financial difficulties

Health Projects

- Day-to-day contact with members of public, vulnerable adults, children and young people where staff or volunteers may become aware of concerns about the welfare of children and vulnerable adults

Licensing

- Licensing officers have a duty to consider the welfare and protection of children and vulnerable adults when making licensing decisions, and report any safeguarding breaches (suspected or otherwise) of owners and staff of licensed premises.

Community, voluntary activities

- Sevenoaks District Council works in partnership to provide community, voluntary activities to children and families, e.g. diversionary activities such as holiday play schemes.

- Employees, volunteers and contractors who provide these services have various degrees of contact with those children who use them, and appropriate arrangements need to be in place, including procedures for employees to report concerns about the children they meet and appropriate codes of practice for employees.

Providing services for young people

- The Council provides some services for young people directly and others in partnership with other organisations.