

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 12 March 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health & Adults

SUBJECT: Manual Handling (People) Policy

WARDS: Council-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report to the Safer Policy & Performance Board regarding the introduction of the Manual Handling (People) Policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the policy is noted and if deemed necessary recommendations on any amendments.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended 2002) require a full risk assessment of lifting and handling activities including that of people. Due to a rise in employee accidents and injuries around the manual handling of persons in 2010 and 2011 a recommendation was made for the introduction of a policy. At present there is no corporate policy covering this. The purpose of the policy is to bring a co-ordinated procedural and documentary approach to the lifting and handling of all people irrelevant of their ages and physical abilities.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The provision of a safe working environment and reduction in accidents is important in order to provide efficient and effective delivery of services (the sixth priority in the Corporate Plan).

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Accidents which lead to lost time have financial implications for the authority (although these are always secondary to our concern for the well-being of employees and service users.

No other financial implications have been identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

A reduction in accidents and injuries suffered by staff will, in turn, reduce sickness levels allowing teams to work at full capacity therefore providing, where possible a full service.

6.4 A Safer Halton

See above.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Without a corporate policy it could lead to inconsistent practices and the Authority exposed to future legal action.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no direct implications for equality and diversity.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.