

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
7 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD  
(LRLSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LRLSCB**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee's attention the draft Annual Report 2014/15 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) for consultation and comment.
2. The report will be presented for approval to a joint meeting of the Boards at their meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Any comments or proposed additions and amendments made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be addressed in the final report before it is presented to the Board and subsequently published.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

3. The LRLSCB is a partnership that is required by regulation. The main purpose of the LSCB is to ensure, effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of children and young people.
4. It is a statutory requirement as set out in Working Together 2015 that the LSCB publish an annual report. Working Together 2015 states that:

*'The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board'*

In Leicestershire and Rutland we have, in addition, always presented the annual report to children and families overview and scrutiny committee given our shared roles in scrutinising and challenging provision.

5. Working Together also states that the annual report should 'provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the cause of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons learned from reviews undertaken with the reporting period.

Clearly it is important for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to test whether the report meets these requirements when it considers the LRLSCB Annual Report.

## **Background**

6. Leicestershire and Rutland LRLSCB has been aligned to the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) for three years. They share the same Independent Chair. The intention of alignment was to ensure that there are effective and efficient safeguarding services in an integrated manner across the communities of Leicestershire and Rutland. This has supported a focus on vulnerable children, adults and families.
7. This year we have reverted to presenting separate annual reports for the LRSAB and the LRLSCB. The reasons are twofold. First there have been changes to the statutory frameworks within which both Boards work that underline the need for bespoke annual reports. Second, feedback from readers of last years' annual report suggested that the combined report was too complex and lengthy and risked diverting attention from key issues in the children and adult safeguarding arenas. For this reason two annual reports are being produced and the LRSAB Annual Report will be considered separately by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
8. The LRLSCB Business Plan for 2015/16 was presented to this Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015. The Committee will, therefore, be aware of some of the strengths and areas for development that arose from the assessment of performance in 2014/15 since this informed the framing of that Business Plan. However, the Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance that will be a key document for consideration when Ofsted carries out its 'Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers' alongside which a review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding children board will be undertaken. As pointed out earlier Working Together 2015 requires the Annual Report to be produced and identifies a range of issues that must be covered. It is, necessarily, a detailed report but we have included an Executive Summary to assist readers in gauging the key achievements and development needs arising from the assessment of the Boards' performance across 2014/15.
9. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work we have undertaken in 2014/15 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically it evaluates our performance against the priorities that we set in our Business Plan 2014/15 and against other statutory functions that the LSCB in particular must undertake.
10. In addition to the Business Plan priorities the LRLSCB witnessed some significant changes in the national frameworks governing its operation. First, the Department for Education issued a revised version of Working Together in March 2015 that has required the Board to review some aspects of its work.
11. The full version of the Annual Report 2014/15 is attached as Appendix 2.
12. It includes:
  - (a) A foreword by the Independent Chair
  - (b) A brief overview of the local area safeguarding context with some key context data;

- (c) An overview of the Boards' governance and accountability arrangements;
- (d) Analysis of performance against the five key priorities in the 2014/15 Business Plan which were to:

Priority 1: To be assured that 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility'

Priority 2a: To be assured that children and young people are safe

Priority 2c: To be assured that services for children, services for adults and services for families are effectively coordinated to ensure children and adults are safe

Priority 3a: To be assured of the quality of care for any child not living with a parent or someone with parental responsibility

Priority 4: To be assured that our Learning and Improvement Framework is raising service quality and outcomes for children and young people

Priority 5: To be assured that the workforce is fit for purpose

- (e) An overview of performance in key statutory functions notably the Serious Case Review Sub-Group and Child Death Overview Panel – both of which are statutorily required in the children's safeguarding arena.
- (f) The challenges ahead including our Business Plan 2015/16

13. The Executive Summary to the report is attached at Appendix 1 and highlights key achievements and areas for development that have been drawn into the Business Plan for 2015/16.

### **Proposals/Options**

14. The committee is asked to consider the Annual Report and to make any comments or proposed additions or amendments to the report that will be addressed prior to the final version of the Annual Report being published.

### **Consultation**

15. All members of the Boards and their Executive have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the annual report. In addition discussions have been held with youth councils in both local authority areas to enable them to contribute their views about safeguarding in Leicestershire and Rutland.

### **Conclusions**

16. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee should note and comment on the attached Annual Report 2013/14.

### **Background Papers**

15. Report to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

### **Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

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**List of Appendices**

- Appendix 1 -Executive Summary of the Leicestershire and Rutland  
Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15.  
Appendix 2: Annual Report of the LRLSCB 2014/15

**Relevant Impact Assessments:**

Equality and Human Rights Implications

17. Safeguarding vulnerable children, young people and vulnerable adults concerns individuals who are likely to be disadvantaged in a number of ways. The Annual Report sets out how the LSCB/SAB seeks to ensure that a fair, effective and equitable service is discharged by the partnership. Likewise the Annual Report and Business Plan 2014/15 extracts set out how the partnership will seek to engage with all parts of the community in the coming year.

Partnership Working and associated issues

18. Safeguarding is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation, Working Together 2013, published by the Department for Education.