

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 18 JANUARY 2016**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LRLSCB)**

#### **LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17**

##### **Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Business Plan 2016/17 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB). This is brought for consultation and comment.
2. The Business Plan will be considered by the LRLSCB at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 with final sign off anticipated to be secured at their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016. We wish to provide the Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to comment at an early stage so that any proposed additions and amendments proposed can be considered by the Boards at their meeting in January.

##### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

3. The LRLSCB is a statutory body established as a result of Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and currently operates under statutory guidance issued in Working Together 2015. There is no statutory requirement to report the annual business plan to scrutiny but it has been considered best practice in the past so to do.
4. The Annual Report of the LRLSCB and LRSAB was considered by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 September 2015 and emerging priorities for the new Business Plan for 2015/16 were discussed at that meeting. The views expressed by the Committee at that stage were fed into the formative process for the Plan and are reflected in the final versions of the Plan which is attached as appendix 1.

##### **Background**

5. As in 2015/16 the LRLSCB has formulated an individual business plan supplemented by a plan that addresses priorities it will share with the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board. This is intended to secure a balance between achieving a strong focus on children's safeguarding issues and recognising that some safeguarding matters require approaches that cross-cut children and adult services and focus on whole family issues.
6. The future improvement priorities identified in the Annual Report 2014/15 have been built into the Business Plans for 2016/17. In addition to issues arising from the

Annual Report the new Business Plans' priorities have been identified against a range of national and local drivers including:

- (a) national safeguarding policy initiatives and drivers;
- (b) recommendations from regulatory inspections across partner agencies;
- (c) the outcomes of serious case reviews, serious incident learning processes, domestic homicide reviews and other review processes both national and local;
- (d) evaluation of the business plans for 2015/16 including analysis of impact afforded by our quality assurance and performance management framework;
- (e) best practice reports issued at both national and local levels;
- (f) the views expressed by both service users and front-line staff through the Boards' engagement and participation arrangements.

7. The new Business Plan has been informed by discussions that have taken place in a number of forums since the autumn of 2015. These include:

- (a) the annual Safeguarding Summit of chief officers from partner agencies held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015;
- (b) meetings of the Scrutiny Panels in both Leicestershire and Rutland at which both the annual report 2014/15 and future priorities for action have been debated;
- (c) meetings of the Leicestershire and Rutland Health and Well-Being Boards at which both the annual report 2014/15 and future priorities for action have been debated;
- (d) discussions within individual agencies

8. Business Plan priorities were discussed and debated at a meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee at their meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015. As stated above all the issues raised at that meeting have been incorporated into the draft Business Plan attached.

9. The proposed strategic priorities, priority actions and key outcome indicators set out in the new Business Plans were formulated through the annual development session of the two safeguarding boards held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### **Proposed Business Plans 2016/17**

10. We have adopted a new approach to our business planning this year moving away from the five strategic priorities that have been in place for the last three year and focusing on areas that we have identified as priorities for development and improvement. At the Development Day Board members identified areas in which we had reached good levels of performance and agreed that these would not be included in the Business Plan but rather monitored through a core quality assurance and performance management framework to ensure performance remained at levels

judged to be good or better. By focusing the Business Plan on areas identified for improvement we also hope better to target work on a reduced number of priorities in recognition of the need to be SMART at a time of increasing pressures on capacity.

11. The specific priorities that have arisen for the LRLSCB are:

- Early Help
- Evidencing the impact of the threshold protocol and outcomes from our learning and improvement framework (including Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews)
- Signs of Safety
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Neglect

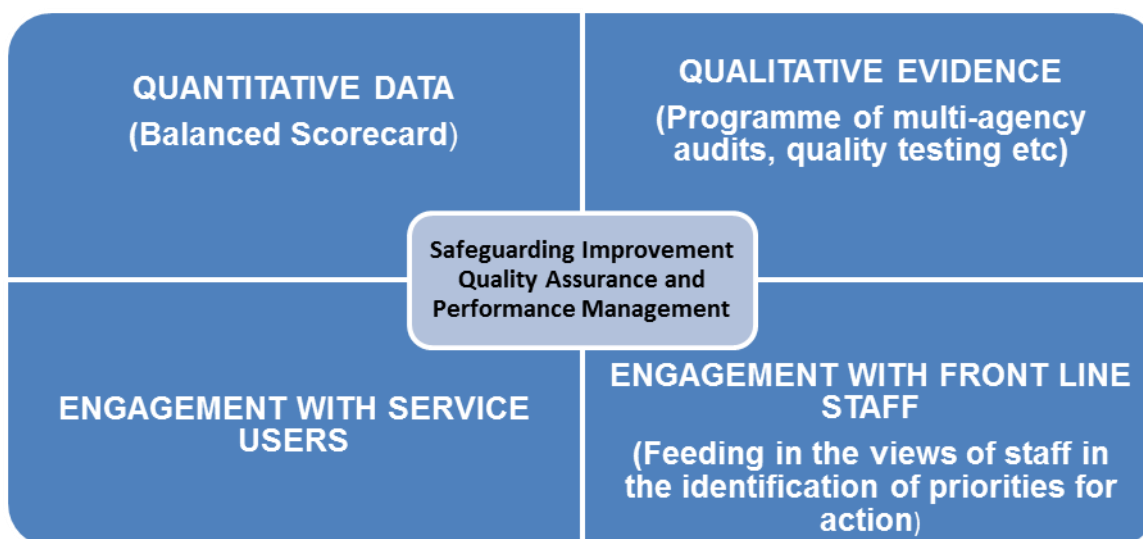
12. The priorities that have arisen for the part of the Business Plan shared with the LRSAB are:

- Domestic Abuse
- Reducing safeguarding risk arising from mental health issues – including monitoring of the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DoLS) and its application to 16-18 year olds
- PREVENT

Consideration is also being given to whether, in the light of current international issues we should include a priority that considers safeguarding risks that may be faced by refugees. It would be helpful for the Scrutiny Committee to express a view on this area of consideration.

13. Against each of these priorities the Boards are in the process of identifying key outcomes for improvement and the actions that will need to be taken over the next year to achieve these improved outcomes. These are set out in the draft Business Plans that is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

14. The Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework for the Board will be revised to ensure that it reflects the new Business Plan and enables ongoing monitoring of performance of core business that is not covered in the business plan. The final framework will be signed off by the Board at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 but the Scrutiny Committee may wish to comment on specific indicators and evidence it would wish to include. Quality Assurance and Performance Management will continue to be framed around our 'four-quadrant' model as set out below:



15. A further change to our Business Plan this year is that against all priorities for action we will include cross-cutting themes that must be addressed both to strengthen safeguarding practice and also secure stronger evidence of impact for the quality assurance framework. The cross-cutting themes are set out in the grid below.

Priorities for improvement	Learning and Improvement drivers	Audit implications	User views and feedback	Workforce implications	Comms implications
Priority 1					
Priority 2					
Priority 3					

These cross-cutting activities will be agreed by those mandated to lead on each specific priority.

16. The views of a range of forums are being sought on the Business Plans. This includes the Cabinets, children and adult scrutiny committees and the Health and Well-Being Boards in both local authority areas.

### **Proposals/Options**

17. The committee is asked to consider the Business Plans and to make any comments or proposed additions or amendments to the Plan that will then be considered at the meeting of the Board due to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### **Consultation**

18. All members of the Boards and their Executive have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on the Business Plans. In addition discussions have been held with service users in both local authority areas to enable them to contribute their views about safeguarding in Leicestershire and Rutland.

## **Conclusions**

19. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee should note and comment on the attached Business Plans for 2016/17.

## **Circulation Under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

## **Officers to Contact**

Paul Burnett, Independent Chair, Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB/SAB  
Telephone: 0116 305 6306  
Email: [paul.burnett@leics.gov.uk](mailto:paul.burnett@leics.gov.uk)

## **List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board Draft Business Plan 2016/2017

Appendix B – Leicester and Rutland Joint Safeguarding Children and Adult Board Draft Business Plan 2016/2017

## **Relevant Impact Assessments**

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

20. 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**

21. Safeguarding is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in the Children Act 2004.