

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
5 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
(LRLSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LRLSCB

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee's attention the draft Annual Report 2015/16 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 28th October 2016. Any comments or proposed additions and amendments made by the 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 the 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 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 four 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. The Boards have continued to present separate annual reports for the LRSAB and the LRLSCB this year for clarity with regard to the separate statutory frameworks for the two Boards. The LRSAB Annual Report will be considered separately by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
8. The LRLSCB Business Development Plan for 2016/17 was presented to this Committee at its meeting on 18th January 2016. The Committee will, therefore, be aware of some of the strengths and areas for development that arose from the assessment of performance in 2015/16 since this informed the framing of that Business Development 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 2015/16.
9. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work we have undertaken in 2015/16 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 2015/16 and against other statutory functions that the LSCB in particular must undertake.
10. The full version of the Annual Report 2015/16 is attached as Appendix B.
11. It includes:
 - A foreword by the Independent Chair;
 - A brief overview of the local area safeguarding context with some key context data;
 - An overview of the Boards' governance and accountability arrangements;
 - Analysis of performance against the five key priorities in the 2015/16 Business Plan which were to be assured that:
 - "Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility"
 - Children and young people are safe, including assurance of the quality of care for any child not living with a parent or someone with parental responsibility

- Services for children, adults and families are effectively coordinated to ensure that children and adults are safe;
 - Our Learning and Improvement Framework is raising service quality and outcomes for children, young people and adults
 - The workforce is fit for purpose.
- 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;
 - The challenges ahead including our Business Development Plan 2016/17
12. The Executive Summary to the report is attached at Appendix A and highlights key achievements and areas for development that have been drawn into the Business Development Plan for 2016/17.

Proposals/Options

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

Consultation

14. 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.
15. The annual report will also be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 15th September, and Cabinet on 16th September. The comments of this Committee will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

Resource Implications

16. Leicestershire County Council contributes £123,390 to the costs of the LRLSCB (of a total budget of £328,650 in 2016/17). In addition it contributes £52,830 to the costs of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) (of a total budget of £95,962 in 2016/17).

Conclusions

17. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee should note and comment on the attached Annual Report 2015/16.

Background Papers

18. Report to the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee 18th January 2016 - <http://ow.ly/9cQn303uFOZ>

Circulation Under Local Issues Alert Procedure

19. None.

Officers to Contact:

Paul Burnett, Independent Chair, Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB/SAB

Telephone: 0116 305 6306

Email: Paul.burnett@leics.gov.uk

Paul Meredith, Director of Children and Family Services

Telephone: 0116 305 6340

Email: Paul.Meredith@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Executive Summary of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16.

Appendix B: Annual Report of the LRLSCB 2015/16

Relevant Impact Assessments:

Equality and Human Rights Implications

20. Safeguarding children, young people and adults concerns individuals who are likely to be disadvantaged in a number of ways. Information on differing needs of, and impacts on different groups of individuals with regards to safeguarding is considered as part of the process to develop the Board's Business Plan. Specific impacts on or views of different groups is also considered in the work of the LRLSCB and LRSAB Safeguarding Effectiveness Group (SEG) in assessing performance and effectiveness with regard to safeguarding.

Crime and Disorder Implications

21. There is a close connection between the work of the LRLSCB and that of community safety partnerships in Leicestershire. For example the LSCB works closely with community safety partnerships to scrutinise and challenge performance in community safety issues that affect the safeguarding and well-being of individuals and groups e.g. domestic abuse and Prevent. The LSCB also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.
22. The LRLSCB Annual Report includes analysis of performance in a range of areas relevant to the community safety agenda and the evaluation of performance will be shared with these partnership forums to ensure that both strengths and development needs are recognised and acted on.

Environmental Implications

23. The published LRSAB and LRLSCB Annual Reports will primarily be made available on-line in electronic form, rather than paper. There are no other environmental implications.

Partnership Working and associated issues

24. Safeguarding is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation, Working Together 2015, published by the Department for Education.

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