

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
6th MARCH 2017

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

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD BUSINESS PLANS 2017/18

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 priorities for 2017/18 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB). This is brought for consultation and comment.
2. The Business Plan priorities were considered by the LRLSCB at its meeting on 27 January 2017 with final approval of the plan anticipated to be secured at the meetings of the LRLSCB and the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) on 31 March 2017. Comments from the Scrutiny Committee will be incorporated in to the final plan that will be submitted to the Boards at their meeting in March.

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 is considered best practice to do so.
4. The Annual Report of the LRLSCB was considered by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 September 2016 and emerging priorities for the new Business Plan for 2017/18 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 priorities.

Background

5. As in 2016/17 the LRLSCB has formulated an individual Business Plan supplemented by a plan that addresses priorities it will share with the LRSAB. 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 adults services and focus on whole family issues.
6. The future improvement priorities identified in the Annual Report 2015/16 have been built into the Business Plans for 2017/18. 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 2016/17 including analysis of impact afforded by the 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;
 - g. recommendations contained in the Ofsted review of the LRLSCB published on 13th February 2017 and the recommendations in the Ofsted inspections of Leicestershire and Rutland Councils published on the same date.
7. The new Business Plan has been informed by discussions that have taken place in a number of forums since the autumn of 2016. These include:
- a. the annual Safeguarding Summit of chief officers from partner agencies held on 23rd November 2016
 - b. meetings of the Scrutiny bodies in both Leicestershire and Rutland at which both the LRLSCB and LRSAB Annual Reports 2015/16 and future priorities for action have been debated;
 - c. meetings of the Leicestershire and Rutland Health and Wellbeing Boards at which both the LRLSCB and LRSAB Annual Reports 2015/16 and future priorities for action have been debated;
 - d. discussions within individual partner agencies.
8. The proposed strategic priorities were formulated through the annual development session of the two Safeguarding Boards held on 2 December 2016.

Proposed Business Plans 2017/18

9. The Board is considering making a differentiation between Development priorities and Assurance priorities. Assurance priorities are solely identified as priorities for seeking assurance regarding safeguarding practice, risk or impact, rather than carrying out any specific development work. Development priorities are ones that require specific development work led by the Board, these may also include some element of assurance.
10. The priorities below incorporate the specific recommendations from Ofsted report to improve LRLSCB performance:
- Evaluating the quality and effectiveness of return home interviews and risk management when children go missing;
 - Strengthening the Section 11 audit process to ensure this is more probing and robust;
 - Enabling children more fully to influence the LSCBs priorities and their delivery;
 - Improve awareness raising of private fostering across the partnership and wider community.
11. The LRLSCB will be seeking assurance and monitoring performance on the areas of improvement identified in the Ofsted Inspection Reports for the two local authorities, and would expect to do this in collaboration with this committee and the relevant scrutiny body in Rutland.

12. The proposed Business Plan Priorities for 2017/18 considered at the LRLSCB meeting on 27th January 2017 are outlined in the tables below.

LRLSCB Development Priorities

Development Priority	Summary
1. CSE, Trafficking & Missing (Missing and online safety)	Developing assurance regarding missing children process and intervention and developing online safety responses.
2. Children with Disabilities	Assessing organisational responses and safeguarding risk understanding with regard to these children and their families.
3. Signs of Safety	Further embedding this across the partnership, particularly schools.

LRLSCB & LRSAB Joint Development Priorities

Development Priority	Summary
1. The 'Toxic Trio'	Assessing and developing approaches to safeguarding adults and children where domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health issues are present.
2. Participation and Engagement	Establishing visible effective participation by children and vulnerable adults at Board level.
3. Emotional Health and Wellbeing	Develop understanding of emotional health and wellbeing across the partnership and gain assurance regarding Better Care Together and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan that work is addressing safeguarding issues, particularly regarding mental health
4. Multi-Agency risk management / Supervision	Develop a multi-agency supervision approach for risk management in safeguarding adults and children.

13. Against each of these priorities the Board is 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. This process has been delayed this year in order to incorporate the outcome of the Ofsted inspections.
14. The following are the identified assurance priorities arising from current priorities and the considerations from the development day. Seeking assurance on these would be built into the work of the Safeguarding Effectiveness Group (SEG) and the LSCB and SAB Multi-Agency Audit Groups as appropriate.

Assurance Priorities

LSCB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Help (step up and step down) 2. Sports and other independent settings (test regarding historic abuse disclosures) 3. Thresholds 4. Supervision 5. Initial Health Assessments for Looked After Children (IHAs) 6. Young People's Mental Health
Joint LSCB and SAB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic Abuse 2. Information Sharing

15. 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.
16. The views of a range of forums are being sought on the Business Plans. This includes the Cabinets, Children and Adults Scrutiny bodies and the Health and Wellbeing Boards in both local authority areas.
17. The Board office is arranging for consultation on the priorities with young people and adult service users through existing forums.
18. Feedback from this Committee and these forums will support the development of the action plans for these priorities. The final Business Plan will be signed off at the meeting of the LRSAB and LRLSCB on 31 March 2017.

Proposals/Options

19. The Committee is asked to consider the Business Plan priorities and to make any comments or proposed additions or amendments that will then be considered at the meeting of the Board due to be held on 31 March 2017.

Consultation

20. All members of the Boards and their Executive have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on the Business Plans. The Board office are arranging for consultation on the priorities with young people and adult service users through existing forums.

Resource Implications

21. There are no resource implications arising from the recommendation in this report. Both the LRLSCB and LRSAB operate with a budget to which partner agencies contribute to under an agreed formula that reflects their size, operating budgets and legal safeguarding responsibilities.
22. The contribution from Leicestershire Children and Family Services Department is due to reduce by £40,000 in 2017/18, from £123,415 to £83,415. This reduction is part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy savings to 2020/21. Steps have been taken to match projected spend accordingly, but this will reduce the

capacity of the Board with regard to the Independent Chair and the Board Office support staff.

23. The total budget within which the Boards operate in 2017/18 will be £346,090. The LRLSCB has a budget of £241,692 and the LRSAB a budget of £104,478, added to which the Boards receive £40,500 from the community safety partnerships to support the undertaking of Domestic Homicide Reviews.
24. In addition to the contribution from Leicestershire Children and Family Services Department Leicestershire County Council contributes £52,798 to the LRSAB and in addition hosts the Safeguarding Boards' Business Office.

Conclusions

25. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee should note and comment on the LRLSCB Business Plan Priorities for 2017/18.

Officer to Contact

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

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

26. The LRLSCB /LRSAB seek to ensure that a fair, effective and equitable service is discharged by the partnership to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and adults. At the heart of their work is a focus on any individual or group that may be at greater risk of safeguarding vulnerability and the performance framework tests whether specific groups are at higher levels of risk. The Business Plans 2017/18 will set out how the partnership will seek to engage with all parts of the community in the coming year.

Partnership Working and associated issues

27. 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 and the Care Act 2014.

This page is intentionally left blank