

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
11 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
(LRLSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LRLSCB

Purpose of the 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 2016/17 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Local 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 20th October 2017. 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.
3. The final report is the report of the Independent Chair who must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. This is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

4. The LRLSCB is a partnership that is required by regulation. The main purpose of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) is to ensure, effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of children and young people.
5. 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.

6. 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.

7. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 abolishes LSCBs, but requires local authorities, the Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups to set up local partnership arrangements for safeguarding children. Statutory guidance on this Act, including timescales for new partnership arrangements to be put in place, is expected in early 2018. Until this time, the LRLSCB will continue to operate as normal.

Background

8. Leicestershire and Rutland LRLSCB has been aligned to the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) for five 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.
9. This year, the Boards have continued to present separate annual reports for the LRSAB and the LRLSCB for clarity with regard to the separate statutory frameworks for the two Boards. The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) Annual Report will be considered separately by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
10. The LRLSCB Business Development Plan for 2017/18 was presented to this Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6th March 2017. The Committee will, therefore, be aware of some of the strengths and areas for development that arose from the assessment of performance in 2016/17 since this informed the framing of that Business Development Plan. However, the Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance with regard to safeguarding children in line with the requirements in Working Together 2015.
11. It is, necessarily, a detailed report, but has been significantly reduced in length compared to previous years. As such a two-page summary is included in the Report in place of a separate Executive Summary, which has previously been produced.
12. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work we have undertaken in 2016/17 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 out in the LSCBs Business Plan 2016/17 and against other statutory functions that the LSCB in particular must undertake.
13. The full version of the Annual Report 2016/17 is attached as Appendix A.
14. It includes:
 - (i) A foreword from the Independent Chair;
 - (ii) A summary of the work and findings of the Board during the year;
 - (iii) An overview of the Boards' governance and accountability arrangements and local context;
 - (iv) Two separate outlines of safeguarding children performance, activity and outcomes for Leicestershire and Rutland;

- (v) Analysis of performance against the key priorities in the 2016/17 Business Plan;
- (vi) An overview of the Boards work on engagement, assurance, learning and development and training;
- (vii) The challenges ahead including our Business Development Plan Priorities for 2017/18.

Key Messages

15. The key messages from the LRLSCB regarding Leicestershire are:
- a) Workers and agencies work well together to safeguard children in Leicestershire;
 - b) Early Help and other services in Leicestershire are improving outcomes for children and young people;
 - c) Partnership working on Child Sexual Exploitation is strong;
 - d) Timeliness of Children's Social Care referrals of children for Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) remains a concern. The impact of work by the Local Authority and its partners to address this will continue to be monitored;
 - e) Consistency of practice within agencies across a range of areas of work requires improvement. This includes quality of assessment, recording, information sharing and hearing and responding to the voice of children;
 - f) The Board will continue to challenge and drive improvement in safeguarding of children, including developing its own approach to engagement and participation of children and young people, and quality assurance.

Proposals/Options

16. 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

17. All members of the Boards and their Executive have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the annual report.

Resource Implications

18. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. Both the LRLSCB and LRSAB operate with a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
19. Leicestershire County Council contributes £83,415 to the costs of the LRLSCB, 35% of the total budget of £240,812 in 2017/18. In addition it contributes £52,798 to the costs of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB), 52% of the total budget of £100,838 in 2017/18, and hosts the Safeguarding Boards' Business Office.
20. The Council's contribution to the LRLSCB was reduced in 2017/18 by £40,000 against previous years in line with the savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2017/18 to 2020/2021. Contributions to the LSCB from

Probation services (National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company) have also reduced in 2017/18.

21. There will be financial implications for statutory partners for 2018/19 to sustain the current level of activity. The Board funding has been underpinned in past years using contingency funding. Proposals are being prepared for consideration by partners in their budget setting for 2018/19 and beyond.

Conclusions

22. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee should note and comment on the attached Annual Report 2016/17.

Background Papers

23. Report to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6th March 2016. <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1043&MIId=4848&Ver=4>

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact:

Simon Westwood, Independent Chair, Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB

Telephone: 0116 305 7130

Email: simonwestwood@btinternet.com

Paul Meredith, Director of Children and Family Services

Telephone: 0116 305 6340

Email: Paul.Meredith@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children's Board 2016/17.

Relevant Impact Assessments:

Equality and Human Rights Implications

24. 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

25. 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.
26. 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 upon.

Environmental Implications

27. 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

28. 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.

This page is intentionally left blank