



CABINET – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2017

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD AND SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD ANNUAL REPORTS
2016/2017**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD AND
SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD**

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the key findings of the Annual Reports of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) and the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board (LRSAB) for 2016/17 for information and comment.
2. The Annual Reports will be presented for approval to a joint meeting of the Boards on 20th October 2017. Any comments or proposed additions and amendments made by the Cabinet will be addressed in the final reports before they are 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.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes and comments on the LRLSCB and LRSAB Annual Reports for 2016/17.

Reasons for Recommendation

5. The LRLSCB and LRSAB are statutory bodies and local authorities have a duty to ensure that the Boards are able to operate effectively.
6. It is a requirement of (the statutory guidance) Working Together 2015 that the LRLSCB Annual Report be reported to the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive of the local authority, the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is a requirement of the Care Act 2014 statutory guidance that the LRSAB Annual Report is also reported to these individuals as well as the Chief Constable and Healthwatch.

7. It has been previous practice in Leicestershire to submit both the Annual Report and Business Plan for the LRSAB and the LRLSCB to the Cabinet and the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
8. Presenting the Annual Reports and the Business Plans enables the Cabinet to comment on their content, propose any changes or amendments it wishes to be considered and to reflect on whether the reports identify matters that it, as the Executive for the County Council, wishes to address in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding within the work of the Authority.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

9. The Annual Reports have been considered by the Children and Families and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their meetings on 11 and 12 September 2017 respectively, and the comments of the committees will be reported to the Cabinet.
10. Any proposed additions or amendments to the Plans made by the Cabinet will be considered by the Independent Chair for incorporation into the Reports, prior to submission to the Boards at their meeting on 20 October 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

11. As stated above the LRLSCB and LRSAB are statutory bodies; the former established under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and the latter becoming a statutory body from 2014 under the Care Act. Local authorities have a duty to ensure that the Boards are enabled to operate effectively.
12. 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.
13. The previous Annual Reports (2015/16) of the LRLSCB and LRSAB were submitted to the Cabinet on 16 September 2016.
14. The Business Plans for the LRLSCB and LRSAB for 2017/18 were submitted to the Cabinet on 10 March 2017.

Resources Implications

15. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. Both the LRLSCB and LRSAB operate within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
16. The total budget within which the Boards are operating in 2017/18 is £341,650. The LRLSCB has a budget of £240,812 and the LRSAB a budget of £100,838.
17. Leicestershire County Council has contributed £83,415 to the LRLSCB and £52,798 to the LRSAB for 2017/18, in total 41% of the budget, and in addition hosts the Safeguarding Business Office. 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.

18. 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.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

19. None.

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PART B

Background

Annual Reports 2016/17

20. The LRLSCB and LRSAB aligned their work five years ago to ensure effective and efficient safeguarding services operating in an integrated manner. This has supported a focus on vulnerable children, adults and families. Since 2014/15 the Boards have agreed to produce two separate annual reports.
21. The LRLSCB Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance with regard to safeguarding children in line with the requirements in Working Together 2015.
22. The LRSAB Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance on the local approach to safeguarding adults in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.
23. The key purpose of the two Annual Reports is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2016/17 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children, young people, and for adults in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically they evaluate performance against the priorities set out in the Business Plans for 2016/17 and against other statutory functions that the LRLSCB in particular must undertake. Full copies of both Annual Reports are attached as Appendices A and B to this report.
24. These are, necessarily, detailed reports, but have been significantly reduced in length compared to previous years. As such two-page summaries are included in the reports in place of separate Executive Summaries which have previously been produced.
25. Both the LRLSCB and LRSAB Annual Reports 2016/17 include:
 - (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 or adults 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

26. The key messages from the LRSAB for the specific attention of the County Council's Cabinet are:
 - a. Workers and agencies work well together to safeguard adults in Leicestershire.

- b. 'Making Safeguarding Personal' (MSP) is influencing practice across agencies and more people in Leicestershire have more say in the enquiries into their safeguarding.
- c. Financial Abuse and Domestic Abuse are becoming more prevalent in safeguarding adult enquiries in Leicestershire.
- d. More work is required to gain assurance regarding oversight of adult safeguarding enquiries carried out in Health settings.
- e. The Board will continue to challenge and drive improvement in the safeguarding of adults, including developing its own approach to engagement and participation of adults with care and support needs.

27. The key messages from the LRLSCB for the specific attention of the County Council's Cabinet 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 in Care 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.

Consultations

- 28. All members of the LRLSCB and LRSAB and their Executives have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on drafts of the Annual Reports.
- 29. As stated above, the Annual Reports have also been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and issues raised at these meetings will be considered for inclusion in the version which will be presented to the joint meeting of the Boards on 20th October 2017.

Background Papers

Report to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2017 - Leicestershire and Rutland /Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016/17

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1040&MId=4927&Ver=4>

Report to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2017 - Leicestershire and Rutland /Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1043&MId=4850&Ver=4>

Report to the Cabinet on 10 March 2017 - Leicestershire and Rutland Local safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board Business Plans 2017/18
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4859&Ver=4>

Report to the Cabinet on 16 September 2016 - Leicestershire and Rutland /Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4775&Ver=4>

Appendices

Appendix A – LRLSCB Annual Report – 2016/17

Appendix B – LRSAB Annual Report – 2016/17

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

30. 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 groups of individuals with regards to safeguarding is considered as part of the process to develop the Boards' Business Plans. Specific impacts on or views of different groups are 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

31. There is a close connection between the work of the LRSAB and LRLSCB and that of community safety partnerships in Leicestershire. For example, the Boards work 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 Boards also support community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.
32. The LRLSCB and LRSAB Annual Reports include 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.

Partnership Working and associated issues

33. Safeguarding is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation, the Care Act 2014 and Working Together 2015, published by the Department for Education.