

**Draft minute of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
10 September 2018**

**Annual Report of the Independent Chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland
Local Safeguarding Children Board.**

The Committee considered a report of the Independent Chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) which presented the Board's Annual Report for 2017/18. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes. Any comments or proposed amendments would be addressed in the final report before it was presented to the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board at its meeting on 12 October 2018.

The Independent Chair of the LRLSCB was unable to attend the meeting to present the Annual Report. Given the independence of the LRLSCB, members of the Committee did not feel that it was appropriate to raise their questions with any of the officers present at the meeting. However, it was felt that the Committee's comments and questions were important and there should be the opportunity for these to be presented. It was therefore agreed that any questions that the Committee would have asked the Independent Chair would be recorded and submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting on 14 September. The following questions and comments were raised:

- Were there any barriers to learning because of the capacity of workers across the children's social care workforce?
- Concern was raised regarding the capacity of officers to attend training and the non-attendance at this by the Probation Service.
- It was queried how the change in process around Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit cases being allocated to social workers would be monitored?
- Were the computer systems across partner organisations synchronised so that they were compatible?
- The LRLSCB would continue to monitor the notable reductions in referrals and child protection plans in Rutland, and it was queried whether this would also be the case in Leicestershire?
- Was the LRLSCB satisfied with Leicestershire County Council's procedures and did it feel that the arrangements the County Council had in place were adequate?
- Further detail was requested regarding the 'Section 11' peer challenge process; was this successful and how would it be taken forward?
- There had been a reduction in the number of Elective Home Educated children who had received a statutory visit. Why was this the case and what was being done to improve this?
- Had funding for the that the new local arrangements for safeguarding been secured from the Police, CCGs and local authorities?

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were also raised:

- i) The Committee was reminded that this would be the last Annual Report of the LRLSCB as the arrangements to replace the Board were now being finalised. A report would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee providing an update on the current position with this.
- ii) It was noted that one of the key messages in the Annual Report was that changes to the First Response service are improving assessment processes. In the light of current staffing issues facing that team, it was confirmed that the necessary arrangements would be put in place to ensure that the performance of the service was affected as little as possible.
- iii) A follow up inspection from Ofsted around the front door arrangements was expected and the outcome from this would provide a good indicator of the improvements that had been made. It was felt that there had been improvements, and the Annual Report of the LRLSCB also reflected this opinion.

RESOLVED:

That the questions now raised by the Committee be submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting on 14 September 2018.