



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the Health and Wellbeing Board's attention the draft Annual Report 2017/18 of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board LRLSCB for 2018/19 for consultation and comment.

Link to the local Health and Care System

2. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Health and care needs can be linked to safeguarding risk for adults and children and health and care practitioners can have opportunities to identify and respond to safeguarding risk not available to workers in other agencies.
3. The Annual Report considers safeguarding effectiveness across partner agencies including those working in the health and care system. The LRLSCB Business Plan Priorities for 2017/18 incorporated areas within priority health workstreams, including emotional health and wellbeing and mental health.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that the Board notes and comments on the draft LRLSCB Annual Report for 2017/18 and identifies any areas for the Board to take forward.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. The LRLSCB is a partnership that is required by regulation as a result of the Children Act 2004 and expectations of the Board are set out in Working Together 2015. One requirement is that the Annual Report of the LRLSCB be presented to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
6. The Business Plan of the LRLSCB for the current year, 2018/19 was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 24 May 2018.

Background

Statutory Framework

7. 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.
8. Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, LSCBs are due to cease and local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be established in line with statutory guidance issued in Working Together 2018. Until multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are in place, LSCBs will continue to function under current statutory guidance.

Annual Report

9. The LSCB shares some operational arrangements with the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB). From 2018/19 the two Boards will have separate Chairs and will no longer have joint Board meetings, as the LRSAB further aligns its work with the Leicester City SAB. The LSCB and SAB produce separate Annual Reports. Other aspects of joint working between the LSCB and SAB will remain for 2018/19.
10. The Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance with regard to safeguarding children, in line with the requirements in Working Together 2015. It is, necessarily, a detailed report, but has been significantly reduced in length compared to previous years. As such the key messages are included in the Independent Chair's foreword and two-page summary at the start of the report.
11. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2017/18 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set out in the LSCBs Business Plan 2017/18, including priorities shared with the LRSAB and against other statutory functions that the LSCB in particular must undertake.
12. The Annual Report 2017/18 can be found in full at Appendix A to this report, and 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 Board's governance and accountability arrangements and local context;
 - (iv) Two separate outlines of safeguarding adults performance, activity and outcomes for Leicestershire and Rutland;
 - (v) Analysis of performance against the key priorities in the 2017/18 Business Plan;
 - (vi) An overview of the Board's work on engagement, assurance, learning and development and training;
 - (vii) The challenges ahead including the Business Development Plan Priorities for 2018/19.

Key Messages

13. The key messages from the LRLSCB, specifically in relation to Leicestershire are:

- a. Workers and agencies work well together to safeguard children in Leicestershire.
- b. The capacity of workers is impacting upon their ability to attend development opportunities and put learning into practice.
- c. Changes to the First Response service are improving assessment processes.
- d. A reduction in the number of Child Protection plans needs to be better understood.
- e. Understanding of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) needs to be improved within the voluntary and community sector.
- f. Consistency of practice within agencies across a range of areas of work still requires improvement. This includes quality of assessment, recording, information sharing and hearing and responding to the voice of children.
- g. The Board will continue to challenge and drive improvement in the safeguarding of children, preparing for the changes in legislation which will require the establishment of new safeguarding arrangements by 2019 led by three statutory partners - the local authorities, the clinical commissioning groups for the area and the police.

Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

14. The annual report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the LSCB has carried out with children and young people and with practitioners.
15. This report to the Board is part of the consultation on the Annual Report.
16. All members of the Board and their Executive have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the annual report

Resource Implications

17. There are no resource implications arising from the recommendation in this report. The LRLSCB operates with a budget of £240,263 to which partner agencies contribute.

Timetable for Decisions

18. The final Annual Report will be submitted to the LRLSCB on 12 October, after which it will be published.

Background papers

None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

19. 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 regard 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

20. The LSCB works closely with community safety partnerships in Leicestershire to scrutinise and challenge performance in community safety issues that affect the safeguarding and wellbeing of individuals and groups, for example domestic abuse and Prevent. The LSCB also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.
21. 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.

Partnership Working and associated issues

22. 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.
23. The Children and Social Work Act sets out the cessation of LSCBs and the establishment of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Working Together 2018 governs the new arrangements, with supplementary guidance governing the transition to these arrangements. New arrangements will be required to be in place by September 2019.