



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 11TH JULY 2019

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES,
LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

NEW MULTI-AGENCY CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING ARRANGMENTS

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the new multi-agency children's safeguarding arrangements which will replace the current Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) by September 2019.
2. The changes are required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 (statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children).

Link to the local Health and Care System

3. 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.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the content of the report.

Background

5. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) were established by the Children Act 2004 which gave a statutory responsibility to each locality to have this mechanism in place. LSCBs were the key system in every locality of the country for organisations to come together to agree on how they would cooperate with one another to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
6. As explained above, Working Together 2018 (WT 2018) guidance covers the legislative requirements placed on individual services and sets out a framework for the local safeguarding partners to work together in accordance with the relevant legislation.
7. A *safeguarding partner* in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act,

2017) as:

- i. the local authority Chief Executive;
 - ii. the accountable officer of a clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area;
 - iii. the chief officer of police for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area.
8. The safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together locally and with any relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need.
 9. Once the local arrangements are in place and have been published, the safeguarding partners must also publish a report at least once in every 12-month period that sets out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

Existing Arrangements

10. LSCBs are the key system across the UK to coordinate arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The partnership working enables organisations to be held to account and ensures that safeguarding children remains high on the agenda across their region.
11. Leicester and Rutland have a joint LCSB – the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB). Leicester City Council has its own LCSB.
12. The LRLSCB provides policies, procedures and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It provides advice and information, including by means of leaflets and posters which are free and available to download from its website. The LRLSCB has formed strong links with the Voluntary and Community Sector and has a VCS Reference Group which also supports Leicester's LCSB.
13. The LRLSCB has an independent Chairman who submits Annual Reports and Business Plans to the member authorities each year (to the Cabinet, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Health and Wellbeing Board). Leicestershire County and Rutland Councils each are represented on the LRLSCB by senior officers.

New Arrangements

14. Lead officers from each of the key partners defined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (Leicestershire and Rutland Local Authorities, Leicestershire Police and the Clinical Commissioning Groups which cover the local authority area) have met to develop these proposals and considered the advice of, and

previous reports to the Board, from the current Independent Chair.

15. The new arrangements were published on 28th June 2019 in line with the requirements set out by the DfE. A copy of the new arrangements is at appendix 1.

Officer to contact

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Appendix

Leicestershire and Rutland Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

16. The New Safeguarding Arrangements cover the safeguarding of all children across Leicestershire, therefore there are no specific implications.

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