

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
3 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD (LRLSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LRLSCB

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Committee on the draft Annual Report 2018/19 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB). Any comments or proposed additions and amendments will be addressed in the final report before it is published.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The LRLSCB is a statutory body established by Section 13 of the Children Act 2004. It currently operates under statutory guidance issued in Working Together 2015. 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.
3. 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. The Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB will cease on 25th September 2019. Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which were published on 28 June 2019, will be managed through a new partnership – the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership.
4. It is a statutory requirement, as set out in Working Together 2015, that the Independent Chair of the LSCB publishes an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. 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 Wellbeing board'.

In Leicestershire and Rutland the annual report has traditionally also been presented to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee given the shared roles in scrutinising and challenging provision.

5. 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 within the reporting period.

6. The Business Plan of the LRLSCB for the period that this annual report relates to was considered by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 June 2018.

Background

7. The LSCB shares some operational arrangements with the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) and some partnership structures with the Leicester City LSCB.
8. 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 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.
9. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2018/19 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 2018/19 and against other statutory functions that the LSCB must undertake.
10. The full version of the Annual Report 2018/19 is attached as Appendix A and includes:
 - (i) A foreword from the Independent Chair;
 - (ii) An overview of the Board's governance and accountability arrangements and local context;
 - (iii) Two separate outlines of safeguarding children performance, activity and outcomes for Leicestershire and Rutland;
 - (iv) Analysis of performance against the key priorities in the 2018/19 Business Plan;
 - (v) An overview of the Board's work on engagement, assurance, learning and development and training.

Key Messages

11. 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) Further work is required regarding the understanding of thresholds for safeguarding across the partnership.
 - c) The impact of key service changes such as the children and family wellbeing service should be reviewed.
 - d) Young people are directly influencing the work of the LSCB, and hearing and responding to the voice and lived experience of children is improving in safeguarding.

- e) More and better referrals could be made to agencies who provide specialist support to families, such as those relating to substance misuse and sexual abuse.
- f) The consistency of practice within agencies across a range of areas of work still requires improvement. This includes quality of assessment, recording, and management oversight of staff.
- g) The Safeguarding Children Partnership led by three statutory partners - the local authorities, the clinical commissioning groups for the area and the police - will take forward multi-agency work to safeguarding children.

Proposals/Options

- 12. 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

- 13. 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.
- 14. 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

- 15. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. The LRLSCB operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
- 16. Leicestershire County Council contributes £84,276 to the costs of the LRLSCB and Safeguarding Children Partnership, 35% of the total budget of £243,419 in 2019/20. In addition it contributes £53,590 to the costs of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB), 52% of the total budget of £102,152 in 2019/20, and hosts the Safeguarding Boards' Business Office.
- 17. Following anticipated funding reductions and agreement with Board partners the Board budget for 2019/20 no longer includes funding for Serious Case Reviews (or Safeguarding Adults Reviews for the SAB). These are to be funded through the reserves of the Safeguarding Boards. The reserves are sufficient to cover current reviews underway. The Board has agreed that any additional costs would be covered proportionally by safeguarding partners.
- 18. The budget requirement for the new partnership is being considered by safeguarding partners in developing the new multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children and parallel consideration of Safeguarding Adults Board support arrangements.
- 19. The Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

Timetable for Decisions

20. The Annual Report will be presented to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 September 2019, the Cabinet on 13 September 2019 and the Health and Wellbeing Board on 26 September 2019. Any comments will be considered by the addressed prior to the final report being published by the end of September.

Background Papers

Report to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee 4th June 2018.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

21. None.

Relevant Impact Assessments:

Equality and Human Rights Implications

22. 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

23. 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, for example domestic abuse and Prevent. The LSCB also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.

Environmental Implications

24. The published LRLSCB Annual Report will primarily be made available on-line in electronic form, rather than paper. There are no other environmental implications.

Partnership Working and associated issues

25. 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.
26. 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 are required to be in place by

the end of September 2019. Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will commence in Leicestershire from 29 September 2019.

Appendices

Appendix A - Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children's Board 2018/19.

Officers to Contact:

Simon Westwood, Independent Chair, Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB
Telephone: 0116 305 7130
Email: simonwestwood@btinternet.com

Jane Moore, Director of Children and Family Services
Telephone: 0116 305 6249
Email: Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk

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