



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Purpose of report

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

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 2018/19 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 2018/19.

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.

Background

Statutory Framework

6. 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.
7. 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. Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB will cease on 25th September 2019. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will be managed through a new partnership – the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership. The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements were published on 28th June 2019.
8. The County Council's Cabinet considered the Annual Report at its meeting on 13 September 2019.

Annual Report

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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 Boards' 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;
 - (vi) The challenges ahead, including the Business Development Plan Priorities for 2019 until the Board ceases.

Key Messages

12. 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 understanding of thresholds for safeguarding across the partnership.
 - c) The impact of key service changes such as the children and family wellbeing service to 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 regarding substance misuse and sexual abuse.
- f) 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 as well as information with health agencies.
- 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

Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

- 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. This report to the Board is part of the consultation on the Annual Report.
- 15. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the annual report

Resource Implications

- 16. There are no resource implications arising from the recommendation in this report. The LRLSCB operates with a budget of £243,419 to which partner agencies contribute.

Timetable for Decisions

- 17. The final Annual Report will be published by the end of September before the LSCB ceases and new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements commence.

Background papers

None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

18. 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

19. 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.
20. 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

Environmental Implications

21. The published LRLSCB Annual Report will primarily be made available on-line in electronic form, rather than paper.

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 are required to be in place by the end of September 2019. Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will commence in Leicestershire and Rutland from 29 September 2019.