



LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND
LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD (LRLSCB)

Annual Report

2018/19

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Independent Chair: Simon Westwood

Foreword



I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children (LRLSCB) 2018/19.

The key purpose of the report is to assess the impact of the work we have undertaken in 2018/19 on safeguarding outcomes for children, and young people in Leicestershire and Rutland. Though the report is joint for the two areas it provides distinct findings about practice and performance in both Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Board has worked over many years to promote the safety and welfare of children and will hand this work over to the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership in September 2019. This partnership is led by the County Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Police for the local area and will continue to work for children & young people in Leicestershire and Rutland to be safe, well and achieve their full potential.

We can never eliminate risk entirely. We need to be as confident as we can be that every child and vulnerable adult, are supported to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The Board is assured that, whilst there are areas for improvement, agencies are working well together to safeguard adults and children in Leicestershire and Rutland.

This report outlines how we have come to this conclusion including:

- Considering how people and organisations listen and respond to what children are saying
- Assessing data and information regarding safeguarding children
- Auditing frontline practice of agencies working together to safeguarding children and address child exploitation.
- Carrying out Serious Case Reviews to identify where children have suffered significant harm to continuously improve how we work together.

The Board has developed and improved procedures for agencies working together, provided training through its partners to improve safeguarding children and has fed into the development of the new Safeguarding Children Partnership that will replace the Board from September 2019.

The input of our Young People's Advisory Panel has been an important addition to the LSCB this year. The young people on the panel have provided their views on key concerns for young people and have challenged and scrutinised developing services. This is essential to support the Board to retain its focus on children and young people.

I hope that this Annual Report will help to keep you informed and assured that agencies in Leicestershire and Rutland are committed to continuous improvement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SP Westwood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Westwood, Independent Chair

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Board Background

The LRLSCB serves the counties of **Leicestershire** and **Rutland**. It is a statutory body established in compliance with the Children Act 2004 (Section 13) and The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area. The work of the LSCB is governed by 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015' statutory guidance.

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 LSCBs will cease by September 2019 and local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be established. In Leicestershire & Rutland the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership will be established in place of the LRLSCB by the 29th September 2019.

The Board is made up of organisations in the public sector with lay members, voluntary sector representation and led by an Independent Chair. The membership and structure of the board can be found on the Board's website www.lrsb.org.uk.

The LRLSCB works closely with Leicester City Safeguarding Children's Board (LCLSCB) on several areas of work to support effective working across the two areas. The LRLSCB and the LCLSCB have a Joint Executive Group that oversees joint areas of business for the two Boards.

The LSCB is funded through financial contributions from its partner agencies. In addition, in-kind contributions from partners are essential for the Board to operate effectively. In-kind contributions include training resource for the inter-agency programme, chairing and participating in the work of the Board and its subgroups and Leicestershire County Council hosting the Safeguarding Boards Business Office. The income and expenditure of the Board is set out on Page 24 of this report.

The LRLSCB is led by an Independent Chair. The independence of the Chair of the LSCB is a requirement of Working Together 2015. The Independent Chair provides independent scrutiny and challenge and better enables each organisation to be held to account for its safeguarding performance.

Priorities set by the LRLSCB for development and assurance in 2018/19 were that:

- The Board positively influences the development of new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- The impact of multiple risk factors on children is recognised, understood and responded to across agencies
- The pathways for access to services for safeguarding children are robust and effective
- Children at risk of exploitation (including Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, Missing and Gangs) are effectively safeguarded
- The approach to safeguarding children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is improved

















Safeguarding Children in Leicestershire

From its scrutiny, assurance and learning work the LSCB assesses that whilst there are some areas for improvement, organisations are working well together in Leicestershire to safeguard children.

Safeguarding children snapshot for Leicestershire:

140,307 children and young people aged under-18 live in Leicestershire¹ (20% of the population).

12% of children and young people aged 0-17 are from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background, slightly above the general population of Leicestershire (11.1%).

-  **22,690** contacts to First Response (Children's services) in Leicestershire
-  **4,612** referrals to Early Help services
-  **5,095** referrals to Children's social care
-  **25%** of referrals to CSC were re-referrals
-  **2,866** Children in Need at the end of March 2019
-  **388** Children on Child Protection plans at the end of March 2019
-  **291** Child protection plans during the year where Neglect is a factor – **58%** of all new plans.
-  **76** Child Protection plans were for children who had previously been on a plan - **15%** of all new plans.
-  **315** referrals regarding Child Sexual Exploitation
-  **739** children reported missing
-  **58%** of missing episodes were followed by a return interview
-  **584** Children in Elective Home Education (EHE) at the end of March 2019
-  **78%** of children in EHE during the year received their statutory visits
-  **585** Children in Care
-  **3** notifications regarding Private Fostering arrangements
-  **4,279** referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

While there were more contacts to Children's Services in 2018/19 than the previous year, referrals into Social Care, and the number of children on child protection plans has reduced. Fewer referrals are repeat referrals and there were 53 fewer child

¹ ONS mid-year population estimates 2018

protection plans for children who have previously been on a plan. Neglect is recognised as a factor in larger number of cases than previously.

The strong application of thresholds has supported the maintained reduction in re-referral rates and repeat child protection plans has continued to reduce following a focused piece of work to understand and impact on the repeat plan figures of previous years.

Following work in the previous year an Ofsted focussed visit in October 2018 identified that Leicestershire's 'First Response' service now has a stable workforce, staff feel supported and valued, good practice is celebrated and shared, and morale is high. It noted that staff value the learning culture that has been created, however further work is required regarding understanding of thresholds across the partnership.

Leicestershire County Council carried out a large-scale review of their Early Help service in 2018/19, which resulted in the launch of a new Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) on 1st April 2019. This service merges Children Centres, Supporting Leicestershire Families (the local response to the national Troubled families programme), Youth Offending Services and Early Help Triage and Assessment Services into one integrated service delivered through locality-based multi-skilled teams. The impact and outcomes for service users linked to this new approach will be monitored during 2019/20.

There was a significant increase in the number of referrals regarding Child Sexual Exploitation. There was also a significant increase in children going missing and a smaller proportion of these missing episodes had a return interview. The Board will receive a report regarding this at its final meeting in July 2019.

The number of children in Elective Home Education continued to rise for another year, but the proportion of children who have had a home visit has remained stable. The Board will receive a report regarding Children Missing Education and approaches in place to support good outcomes for these children at its final meeting in July 2019.

The number of Children in Care has continued to increase in line with the national trend.

Increasing numbers of older children are attending their child protection conferences, due to the support of a children's rights officer. Leicestershire have a Strong Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Supporting Young People After Care (SYPAC) group regularly participating in work to ensure their voice is heard and represented in key service developments. These have supported young people to be involved in Foster Care recruitment and training, the recruitment to key posts in the Children and Families service, mapping for care leaver offer and the development and design of Leicestershire's "Promise" to children in care and care leavers.

Leicestershire County Council have put in place a Practice framework for all front-line staff who work with families. This sets out the expectations about practice in

Leicestershire to support consistent and effective practice across services for Children.

Further awareness across agencies and public was carried out regarding private fostering, however numbers of notifications of private fostering arrangements remained low.

Safeguarding Children in Rutland

From its scrutiny, assurance and learning work the LSCB assesses that whilst there are some areas for improvement, organisations are working well together in Rutland to safeguard children.

Safeguarding children snapshot for Rutland:

- 7,807** children and young people aged under-18 live in Rutland² (20% of the population).
- 5.7%** of the population of Rutland are from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background.
- ▼ **1,411** contacts to Children's services in Rutland
- ▲ **360** referrals to Children's social care
- ↔ **26%** of referrals to CSC were re-referrals
- ▼ **223** Children in Need at the end of March 2018
- ▲ **22** Children on Child Protection plans at the end of March 2019
- ▲ **24** Child protection plans during the year where Neglect was a factor – **48%** of all new plans.
- ▲ **26** Child Protection plans were for children who had previously been on a plan - **48%** of all new plans.
- ▼ Average caseloads of **16.3** cases per worker
- ↔ **12** referrals regarding Child Sexual Exploitation
- ▼ **14** children reported missing
- ▼ **50%** of return interviews completed
- ▲ **1** Private Fostering referral
- ▲ **13** children in Elective Home Education (EHE) at the end of March 2018
- ▼ **71%** of children in EHE during the year had a statutory visit
- ▲ **33** Children in Care
- ▲ **197** referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- 45** referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) regarding individuals in positions of trust

² ONS mid-year population estimates 2018

While there were fewer contacts to Children's Services in 2018/19 than the previous year, referrals into Social Care and the number of children on child protection plans has increased after reducing last year. A similar proportion of referrals were repeat referrals however there has been an increase in the number of children on child protection plans who have previously been on a plan. This relates to a few families and some children were on plans in other areas before moving to Rutland.

Rutland County Council continue to monitor decision making regarding child protection plan processes and conduct thematic auditing and moderation to further review this area.

Rutland County Council report that partner engagement in Early Help and their 'Team around the Family' approach is good and professionals have greater confidence to refer into the service or to seek advice and guidance.

Neglect was a factor in a larger number of child protection plans than the previous year.

There have been fewer reports of children going missing but a smaller proportion of these missing episodes had a return interview carried out with the child. This is affected by the small number of children who go missing, a few of which have declined their return interviews, and for some a return interview was not identified as appropriate. In all cases missing episodes were discussed with the children by professionals working with them to support their safety in the future.

There were more children in Elective Home Education during the year than previous year. Over two thirds received a visit from the monitoring service, the remainder declined a visit.

Rutland County Council are looking to review processes and practice to ensure children out of education and children missing their education are known and safe and children with disability are safeguarded.

The number of Children Looked After has increased slightly. Qualified advocates are provided to give children a voice. Thirty-two children received Independent Advocacy support during the year and feedback from young people is positive, with 89% of recipients rating the service as good to excellent.

In March 2019 Rutland County Council had a focussed visit from Ofsted which looked at the children's services 'front door'. The visit found that children are safe and protected in Rutland and partners understand thresholds and act to safeguard children and provide an appropriate and timely response. It also identified some areas for improvement including quality and consistency of assessments and plans and impact on outcomes for children from audits and supervision and management oversight. The LSCB will monitor areas for improvement and hand this over to the new Partnership in September.

More referrals have been made to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Rutland County Council are progressing work on the CAMHS discharge pathway through ongoing engagement in the CAMHS Improvement Group

Safeguarding Children in Leicestershire and Rutland

Our partners provide assurance regarding safeguarding practice and development throughout the year to our Safeguarding Effectiveness Group; key points and developments are included in relevant sections of this report.

During 2018-19 a number of LSCB partners including Leicestershire Police, the National Probation Service (NPS), Rutland County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and CAF/CASS had external inspections that identified positive practice with regard to safeguarding children. Inspections of the CCGs and Rutland County Council also identified areas for improvement with regard to safeguarding. The LSCB will monitor areas for improvement and hand this over to the new Partnership in September.

There was a reduction in the number of Serious Further Offences committed by offenders supervised by the NPS in Leicestershire.

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust have seen an increase in internal safeguarding children enquiries following the creation of a new single point of access for children requiring urgent care service. This suggests a greater awareness of staff to recognise and respond to potential safeguarding concerns.

The CCGs have refreshed the Children's Safeguarding Quality Makers GP Self-assessment tool. This tool outlines to GP practices what safeguarding processes and procedures are required to be in place to ensure that GP can recognise and respond to child safeguarding concerns.

A Multi-Agency Partnership Performance Meeting has been set up as a forum for partners to share issues and concerns relating to child safeguarding processes and procedures to find solutions.

An increase in the number of children to being taken directly to A&E for sexual abuse medicals instead of being taken to the children's specialist referral centre was identified. The Partnership Performance Meeting group were able to respond quickly and provide information to partners to resolve this with children being appropriately seen and medically examined in a more appropriate and child-focused environment.

In a response to an LSCB survey of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in a previous year the Voluntary and Community Sector reference group of the LSCB communicated key messages to the sector. These messages were focussed on the importance of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, LADO obligations and preventing violent extremism, identified in the survey as apparent gaps in knowledge and practice in the sector.

The Board commissioned the NSPCC to carry out a review of safeguarding in Leisure Centres in Leicestershire & Rutland. The report found no immediate safeguarding concerns but identified some areas for development to be considered across Leisure Centres to support best practice. District Councils and Leisure Providers are working in response to the recommendations and will report back on developments to the new Safeguarding Children Partnership in 2020.

Business Development Plan Priorities

Progress on the Boards priorities is outlined below

LSCB Priority 1 – Influencing transition to new effective multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements for Leicestershire and Rutland

We led work with the safeguarding partners to develop and implement a transition plan for the new arrangements, that includes a children and young people advisory group and an education advisory group.

The Board kept apprised of the developments of the new arrangements and supported these with input from the Independent Chair. The Board's Young People's Advisory Group is part of the new arrangements and a method for engaging with schools is in development.

The new arrangements for the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership will be published in June 2019 and implemented in September 2019.

LSCB Priority 2 – The impact of multiple risk factors on children is recognised, understood and responded to across agencies

We researched and provided guidance to practitioners regarding lack of parental engagement and disguised compliance. We also shared learning from the safeguarding findings of the Child Death Overview Panel reviews of multiple risk factors regarding suicide and infant mortality and review practice, information sharing and service provision with regard to domestic abuse.

We published guidance on disguised compliance on our website and in Safeguarding Matters and carried out a case file audit of cases where domestic abuse was a factor.

Rutland County Council's Emotional Health and Well Being Officer facilitated training on suicide awareness and self-harm for 28 practitioners across agencies locally, with positive feedback.

We will continue to follow up reports on the effectiveness of information sharing and support services in domestic abuse cases where safeguarding children is a concern, following changes in partnership governance of domestic abuse activity in the area.

LSCB Priority 3 – Ensure the pathways for access to services for safeguarding children are robust and effective

We researched good practice and reviewed our local thresholds document to ensure it is compatible with Working Together 2018, clear to practitioners across agencies and that it considers learning from work on multiple risk factors and children with disabilities. We were unable to complete the final version by the end of the year, as further consultation was required in order to agree a joint approach with Leicester LSCB.

The revised Thresholds will be completed in order to commence at the same time as the new Safeguarding Arrangements in September 2019.

LSCB Priority 4 – Children at risk of exploitation are effectively safeguarded

We reviewed how information from Missing Children Return Interviews is analysed and used to support improvements to services and gain assurance that work on Child Sexual Exploitation is safeguarding and improving outcomes for children.

We sought assurance that children missing education are known and safeguarded and monitored the emergence of referrals regarding gangs and Child Criminal Exploitation.

We carried out case file audits regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Children going Missing and fed the findings into the delivery groups for those areas of work. Action by the local CSE hub in response to the CSE audit findings was reported to the Board in January 2019. Analysis of returns interviews a response to the Missing audit and work with Children Missing Education was reported to the Board at its final meeting in July 2019.

Leicestershire Police in partnership with forces in the country launched the ‘Brecks last game’ film and educational resource. This highlights the danger of online grooming and Child Sexual Exploitation and particularly raises awareness that there is risk to boys as well as girls.

In Leicestershire there was a 32% increase in the number of children going missing (179 more) but missing episodes were at the same level as the previous year (2 fewer).

In Rutland there was a 33% reduction in the number of children going missing (7 fewer) and a 20% reduction in the number of missing episodes (5 fewer) compared to the previous year.

Leicestershire County Council alongside Leicestershire police were selected to contribute to “The First Step” report completed by The Children’s Society. The research was commissioned by the Home Office to assist in developing the national picture of Return Interview provision and identify good practice. It was recognised that there was a good shared understanding between police, the Return Interviewers and Children’s social care.

Over a fifth of children who go missing in Leicestershire & Rutland are placed here in the care of other local authorities. In many cases Leicestershire and Rutland Councils and partners have not been notified of the placement of these children locally, which hinders initial risk management and affects planning to manage future risks.

We supported the production and launch of a Looked After Children guidance pack (LAC Pack) for local residential providers. The pack contains statutory guidance, a directory of local resources and a notification form. It has been welcomed by local care providers to support them in safeguarding children in their care.

Partnership strategic and tactical structures for CSE have been revised to incorporate all forms of exploitation such as criminal exploitation and ‘County Lines’ and not solely sexual exploitation to better reflect the emerging risks. Partners including the Local Authorities and Police have reviewed their internal structures and approaches to better support a response to broader exploitation.

Learning from operations in Rutland have been used to develop exploitation as a priority area for children’s services, including introducing a dedicated exploitation social worker to join up local intelligence and training and connect to the CSE Hub resulting in an improved response to vulnerable children.

Leicestershire Police have revised their triage process for CSE to streamline and increase

the efficiency and effectiveness of the process in ensuring that vulnerable children are identified, assessed and supported effectively and perpetrators are also identified and managed effectively.

LSCB Priority 5 – Improve the approach to safeguarding children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We responded to the organisational assessment and audits carried out by the LSCB in 2017-18 by reviewing and updating safeguarding thresholds and procedures for children with disabilities and developing awareness raising material to promote good safeguarding of children with disabilities.

We ran two practitioner spotlight events bringing 144 practitioners together over the two events. The events disseminated the learning from the audits and focused on the assessment of children using experiential learning to help participants develop their understanding and practice. Further training needs for practitioners were requested as part of these events and a follow up evaluation is underway to gauge impact on practice following the events.

We will finalise procedures and address further identified training needs in 2019 and in the work of the new partnership.

Operation of the Board

Engagement and Participation

Partner Engagement and Attendance

The Board met four times during 2018/19. Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils, the Police and the West Leicestershire and East Leicestershire & Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups were represented at all ordinary Board meetings during the year.

Attendance by other members at Board meetings remain good across most other partners, with some exceptions. Schools were only represented at two of the meetings, and normally this was only partial representation of the sector. The National Probation Service and CAFCASS did not attend any Board meetings this year, however it is recognised they have a regional role covering many boards and have written to explain the challenges for them attending.

Attendance at subgroups of the Board is good across agencies and all partners have engaged in the work of the Board such as reviews and audits.

The membership of the Board can be found on the Boards website www.lrsb.org.uk. The role of all agencies in the new partnerships will be set out in the safeguarding arrangements. Engagement with schools and education more broadly will be developed in the new arrangements.

Voluntary Sector Engagement and Participation

The Board has a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Reference Group that provides a link to a broad range of voluntary sector groups to communicate key messages from the Board to the voluntary and community sector and to feed in the views and challenges of the sector into the Board.

The group identified concerns regarding homelessness and children and started to scope the scale of this to report in 2019.

Fewer VCS agencies engaged through the reference group during the year. With less involvement from the local infrastructure agency the group felt their reach into the sector reduced. Work is underway to ensure sustainable engagement in the new partnership arrangements.

Participation and the Voice of children

The Board has developed its approach to engaging children and young people in its work.

The Safeguarding Board's Young Peoples Advisory Group is up and running incorporating young people from Leicestershire and Rutland. The Young People's Advisory Group led sessions at two LSCB meetings during the year. At the first session the young people presented two of their priorities relating to safeguarding

(domestic abuse and mental health) and worked with Board Members to identify action that could be taken to respond to these.

The Young People's Advisory Group also led LSCB scrutiny of the Future in Mind programmes work on developing Mental Health Services for children and young people and worked with Board Members to put together a plan to improve the response to this.

During the year young people from the Advisory Group worked with Words over Weapons knife crime project to raise awareness of knife crime with their peers.

The Advisory Group will continue to ensure the voice of children and young people is very visible in the work of the new Safeguarding Children Arrangements.

The LSCB has received reports on the voice of children and families and how agencies are recording and responding to these through its Safeguarding Effectiveness Group. These show that agencies across the partnership are listening to and responding to the voice of children to support safeguarding and broader service delivery. Multi-agency audits through the year showed a clear improvement in agencies hearing and responding to the voice of children.

The CCGs have provided additional funding for LSCB training materials to support commissioned services to evidence hearing and responding to the voice of children.

Assurance – Challenges and Quality Assurance

Challenge Log

The Board keeps a challenge log to monitor challenges raised by the Board and the outcomes of the challenges. During the year the following challenges were raised by the Board with safeguarding partners regarding the following topics:

- LSCB Multi-agency audits continue to identify recurring issues with regard to plans, supervision, assessments and recording with no apparent progress on improving in these key areas.

Following these challenges:

- Agencies were asked to report to the Board on their action to address these areas. This was reported to the LSCB at its final meeting in July 2019.
- The Board, with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Board reviewed its audit approach to ensure the process is identifying the most important areas for improvement with regard to multi-agency safeguarding. This identified that the process could have a greater focus on the multi-agency elements of safeguarding. This will be incorporated in the LSCBs multi-agency audits in 2019 and the approach taken by the new Safeguarding Children Partnership.

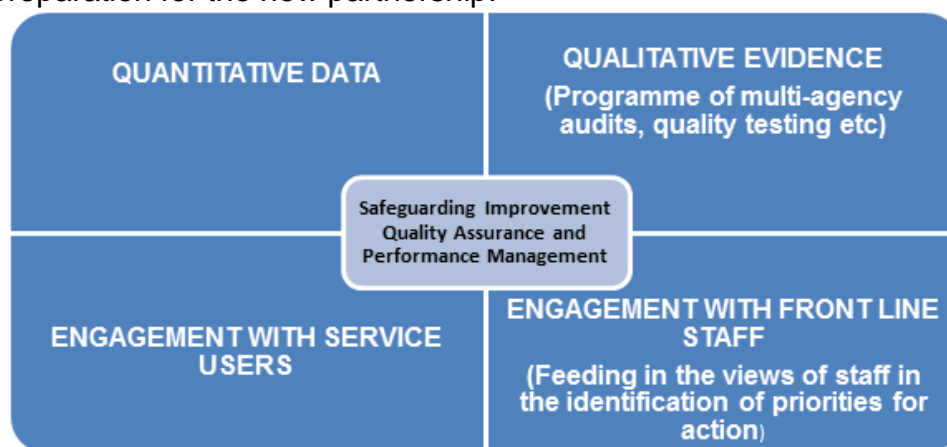
Work to address concerns from the previous year regarding agency attendance at Initial Child Protection Conferences started, but was delayed due to changes in staff. This has remained a concern and work recommenced at the end of the year to be concluded in 2019.

Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework

The Board operates a four quadrant Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework as outlined below. This is overseen by the Boards Safeguarding Effectiveness Group (SEG) shared with the SAB. The outcomes of and findings from this performance framework are incorporated in the relevant sections within the report.

The detailed elements of this are reviewed each year to ensure this provides assurance regarding core safeguarding business as well as business plan priorities and other emerging issues.

The overall model will also be reviewed and engagement elements of the framework, both with staff and service users require some further development in the coming year in preparation for the new partnership.



Audits

In 2017-18 the LSCB revised its approach to 'Section 11' audits on agencies' compliance with their duties within Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to a peer-review based approach every two years. In 2019 the LSCB requested updates on progress against improvement plans from the process in 2017/18 to be incorporated in the Annual Report...

In addition to its 'Section 11' assurance process the Board continued its approach to multi-agency auditing. During the year four safeguarding multi-agency case file audits were carried out focussing on the following priorities:

- Children affected by Domestic Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Sexual Abuse in the Family
- Missing Children

The audit themes were identified based upon findings from reviews, emerging issues and follow up to previous Board work.

The audit process follows a Multi-Agency Case File Audit approach. All relevant agencies audit their practice and involvement in a set number of identified cases. Each case and the findings of each individual agency's audit of that case are

reviewed in a multi-agency meeting to discuss practice and identify further single-agency and multi-agency learning. Findings are considered in the context of learning from previous audits.

All four audits were carried out in conjunction with Leicester Safeguarding Children Board. Each audit considered five cases from Leicestershire and two cases from Rutland, except for the Child Sexual Abuse in the Family audit. No appropriate cases were identified in Rutland to audit under this theme.

Overall the audits showed an improvement through the year and compared to previous years with regard to hearing and responding to the voice and lived experience of children. They also highlighted some examples of good persistent work to engage with children and families.

Whilst audits showed some improvement in information sharing between agencies with cases of good information sharing with a clear impact on safeguarding children, they also identified recurring gaps in information sharing between Local Authorities and health agencies.

The audits identified that referrals to agencies who provide specialist support (e.g. for substance misuse, domestic abuse or sexual violence) were not always being made when these might support improved outcomes for children and families. When referrals for support are being made information on specific risks such as domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and missing episodes is not always being shared.

Following the CSE audit further assurance was requested from and provided by Rutland County Council with regard to their approach to working with cases involving CSE.

As outlined in the challenge log the following areas were identified as recurring issues in cases during the year and from previous years:

- Supervision of frontline staff was not always robust
- Case recording was not of good quality.
- Multi-agency plans were often not specific and measurable
- Multi-agency assessments varied in quality

Agencies were asked to report the action they were taking to ensure they were improving their practice and contribution to multi-agency working in these areas.

Work is underway to improve communication with and involvement of GPs in safeguarding. Through the Safeguarding Matters newsletter and inter-agency training the Board is reminding practitioners to consider how appropriate referrals for support can support safeguarding of children.

The audit findings were also communicated to the domestic abuse and child exploitation operations groups as appropriate to act upon specific findings relating to their areas of work.

A multi-agency audit plan for 2019 has been set in conjunction with the Leicester City LSCB for the coming year linked to the Board's priorities and national Joint Targeted Area Inspection themes.

Learning and Improvement

Serious Case Reviews and other Learning Reviews

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) are described within *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015* and are statutory reviews undertaken by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) for cases where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and either:

- A child dies; or
- A child is seriously harmed and there are concerns as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

The LSCB has a well-used referral process into its Safeguarding Case Review Subgroup that considers whether cases meet SCR criteria or may otherwise be appropriate and beneficial to review to support learning and improvement across the partnership. Decisions regarding cases to review and appropriate types of review are supported by the Learning and Improvement Framework, shared with between the two LSCBs and two SABs across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland.

The Board completed two SCRs in line with Working Together 2015 guidance during the year.

Four further SCRs were underway at the end of the year.

The LSCB took the opportunity to gain learning regarding multi-agency safeguarding practice from six cases that did not meet the criteria for a SCR. The LSCB utilised alternative review methods including Appreciative Enquiry learning events.

Learning from reviews

The following arose in the learning and recommendations from all reviews:

- Denied/concealed pregnancies present a high risk to the babies, particularly at the time of birth, and have statistically significant worse outcomes
- The categories of harm for children in situations of parental domestic abuse need to be carefully considered to ensure all risk factors are considered
- The importance and specific purpose of parts of the child protection process are not always well understood by professionals not regularly involved in child protection processes
- The Board needs greater assurance that Child Protection plans are both SMART and robustly implemented
- All professionals should be supported in considering the impact on them of working with people who present as aggressive / challenging behaviour
- Information sharing with and involvement of health professionals in multi-agency safeguarding processes could be improved
- A continued focus on the lived experience of children with staff is required to support ongoing effective safeguarding

The influence of this learning can be seen in the work of the Board in its priorities, Training and Development of Procedures this year and in priorities and will inform the work of the new Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The Safeguarding Case Review Subgroup monitors a master action plan containing recommendations and actions arising from all reviews.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

The LSCB and SAB manage the process for carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) on behalf of and commissioned by the Community Safety Partnerships in Leicestershire and Rutland. This is managed through the joint Children and Adults section of the Boards' SCR Subgroup. Three DHRs were underway at the end of the year.

Development Work and Disseminating Learning

The LSCB produces a quarterly newsletter in conjunction with the Safeguarding Adults Board, called Safeguarding Matters. This is used to disseminate key messages including from reviews and audits across the partnership and to front-line practitioners.

Learning has also been shared through Learning Events and the Trainers Network and single agency internal processes.

Leicestershire County Council hold annual practice summits including learning from multi-agency reviews.

Clinical Commissioning Groups have disseminated learning from reviews to GPs through quarterly GP forums with an average of 40 GP practices represented at each one by their GP Safeguarding Lead.

These forums aim to foster effective professional relationships between GPs and the multi-agency partnership through direct discussions about safeguarding children issues. They enable GPs to build on their knowledge base and basic safeguarding children training to effectively safeguard the children in their registered practice population.

LLR GPs have been able to engaged in discussing over 30 safeguarding topics including those messages from Child Serious Case Reviews which have required changes to be made in GP practice.

The forums have received positive reviews and feedback by the GPs including that GPs have a much clearer idea of how to manage safeguarding issues in GP practice settings

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The CDOP is a key part of the LSCB's Learning and Improvement Framework since it reviews all child deaths in the Local Authority areas and identifies any modifiable factors, for example, in the family environment, parenting capacity or service provision and considers what action could be taken locally, regionally and nationally to address these.

The local CDOP, shared with Leicester City, reviewed all child deaths in the area and identified learning from these.

The CDOP review of deaths caused by suicide or self-harm in 2017/18 was followed up with events to disseminate the learning to practitioners.

The following learning was also identified in 2017/18:

- Over the years CDOP have noted a number of occasions where the information on organ donation is missing or where there isn't a clear explanation of whether organ donation was discussed with parents.
- CDOP reviewed a number of deaths resulting from knife crime and noted increased national attention and prevalence on this issue.

These two areas were followed up by partners through a case audit and a review respectively, which were finalised in 2018/19.

The local CDOP produces its own annual report, which will be published in the Autumn of 2019 and will summarise its work and learning from reviews in 2018/19.

Co-ordination of and Procedures for Safeguarding Children

The Board shares its multi-agency procedures with the Leicester City LSCB. Throughout the year the Board has reviewed and revised Multi-Agency Procedures in line with developments in local practice, practitioner feedback, learning from reviews and audits and changes to national guidelines including Working Together 2018.

The procedures are available through the Leicester and Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Boards' website and <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/>.

In addition to review of a number of procedures the Board developed new safeguarding procedures regarding:

- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation
- Management of Marks of Concern in Pre-Mobile Babies and Non-Independently Mobile Children

The Boards also completed work on a single Multi-Agency Referral Form for all agencies to use to refer into children services front door for any of the Local Authorities in the area. The form was launched in April 2019 with training sessions to

support effective referrals planned through 2019/20. Some agencies, such as LPT have incorporated this into their systems to support good referrals.

Changes to procedures have been communicated through bulletins, the LSCB and SAB's Safeguarding Matters newsletter and through training events encouraging use by practitioners.

Access to the LLR LSCB multi-agency safeguarding procedures has increased. Google Analytical data shows that there has been an increase of 12% in users and of 10% in sessions in 2018-2019 compared to the previous year.

The suite of procedures are being reviewed in line with the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements and this along with a transfer of procedures to a new platform is to be completed by September 2019.

Review of the current functions of the LLR LSCB Procedures and Development Group to ensure full alignment with the new Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangement's vision and operational model

Training and Development

The LSCBs Multi-Agency Training Programme is shared with Leicester LSCB and co-ordinated and delivered through the shared Multi-Agency Training Group (MATG).

The group has representatives from all key partner agencies and the training has been delivered through these partners offering their resources, in terms of time, space or finance. This allows a comprehensive programme to be offered which is aligned to the priorities of the business plans of the LSCBs across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR), and any areas of development arising from national and local Serious Case Reviews.

Due to a change in delivery the Multi-Agency Training Programme was suspended for the first quarter of 2018/19 and then began to build to a more comprehensive offer in quarters three and four and more opportunities for learning are being created. The change in website for advertising the programme was initially a barrier, however, there has been a lot of work and networking around ensuring that staff in the children's workforce in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland all know to go to the LSCB websites.

In the last quarter of 2018-19 the Board adopted a Charging policy, which requires some agencies would have to pay according to their status role and contribution to the training programme. The proceeds will be used to further meet any learning needs of the children's workforce across LLR.

The LSCB also facilitates a local trainer's network which supports development of local safeguarding trainers through development sessions and networking.

In total 28 courses were delivered across 9 safeguarding themes, with 1,059 participants in training from across agencies, promoting networking and partnership working.

Training linked to the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland LSCB key priorities included:

- Disabled Children
- Neglect
- Children's Mental Health
- Trilogy of Risk/Multiple Risk Factors
- Child Sexual Abuse

In addition, the LSCB was able to support the dissemination of learning that is delivered across LLR to a multi-agency audience from United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA), Turning Point, and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The Board linked with the Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults boards to deliver a Safeguarding Conference incorporating the following cross-cutting themes:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- The importance of participation and the voice of the child
- Coercive Control
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

This was a successful event with 103 participants across the partnership agencies from adult's and children's services, and across LLR. The evaluations showed that staff from all areas had found the information given was interesting and relevant.

With the change in the co-ordination and delivery of the programme, the evaluation process is in its infancy however from two large-scale events on "Safeguarding Disabled Children: Focus on Assessment", it has been possible to gain some insight into the impact of the learning. Of 139 participants across the two events, following the events:

- 88% rated their knowledge as a 4 or 5 (with 5 being high level and 1 being low level)
- 85% rated their skills as a 4 or 5 and,
- 82% rated their confidence as a 4 or 5.

In addition, following the large-scale event on child sexual exploitation 96% of attendees felt that the benefit of meeting colleagues/exchanging information in a local context was a positive or extremely positive element of the training.

Further evaluation of the data from the training events is required to assess the benefits and impact of the Multi-Agency Training Programme to date. There is a plan to evaluate courses three months after delivery, however this has not been commenced. The courses are popular, and the uptake demonstrates a need for and value of such training.

A new Learning Management System is being sourced to help to manage and analyse the training data.

Partners have provided assurance that they are providing up to date training to staff to improve safeguarding awareness and address specific areas of need. Specific areas covered by agencies include Prevent in University Hospitals of Leicester and input regarding the 'one front door' approach in the National Probation Service locally. Leicestershire County Council overhauled the learning offer for social workers in April 2018 with all training explicitly linked to their Knowledge and Skills statements and an annual review and refresh to ensure new areas are incorporated.

Leicestershire & Rutland SAB and LSCB Finance 2018-19

	£
SAB Contributions	
Leicestershire County Council	52,798
Rutland County Council	8,240
Leicestershire Police	7,970
Clinical Commissioning Groups (West Leicestershire and East Leicestershire & Rutland)	15,930
University Hospitals of Leicestershire NHS Trust	7,970
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	7,970
Total SAB Income	100,878
LSCB Contributions	
Leicestershire County Council	83,061
Rutland County Council	52,250
Leicestershire Police	43,940
Clinical Commissioning Groups (West Leicestershire and East Leicestershire & Rutland)	55,760
Cafcass	550
National Probation Service	1,348
Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company (Reducing Re-offending Partnership)	3,000
Total LSCB Income	239,909
Total Income (LSCB & SAB)	340,787
	£
SAB and LSCB Operating Expenditure	
Staffing	210,469
Independent Chairing	25,867
Support Services	30,500
Operating Costs	12,935
Case Reviews (SAB)	15,505
Case Reviews (LSCB)	13,461
Young Peoples Advisory Group (LSCB)	1,736
Training Co-ordination and Provision (LSCB)	39,600
Total SAB & LSCB Operating Expenditure	350,073
Deficit	£9,286
LSCB & SAB Reserve account at end of year	£41,760

Business Plan Priorities 2019

The LSCB will continue work on the priorities identified for 2018-19 until it ceases to operate by the end of September 2019:

Development Priority	Summary
1. Partnership Transition	Influence the development of new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
2. Multiple Risk Factors	The impact of multiple risk factors on children is recognised, understood and responded to across agencies
3. Safeguarding Children – Access to Services	Ensure the pathways for access to services for safeguarding children are robust and effective
4. Child Exploitation - (Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, Missing and Gangs)	Children at risk of exploitation are effectively safeguarded
5. Safeguarding Children with Disabilities	Improve the approach to safeguarding children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Action plans have been reviewed and extended to September 2019 for each of these priorities.

The LSCB will contribute to the Safeguarding Adults Board priority of Safeguarding in Transitions which is exploring how support for children affected by abuse provided before and as they move from children to adult services contributes to preventing Safeguarding need in their adult life.