

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 25 NOVEMBER 2021**

### **REPORT OF THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS FOR LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND**

### **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board the Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) for 2020/21 and the Business Plan of the LRSCP for 2021/22.

#### **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 the health and care system can support the prevention of, identification of and response to safeguarding risk.
3. Clinical Commissioning Groups have shared and equal responsibility for the multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements with the Local Authorities and Police.

#### **Recommendation**

4. The Board is asked to note the Annual Report 2020/21 and Business Plan for 2021/22 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership and the key points of relevance relating to health and wellbeing.

#### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

5. The Safeguarding Partners for Leicestershire are required by regulation to set up multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children as a result of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Expectations of the Multi-agency arrangements are set out in Working Together 2018.
6. Under the new statutory framework for safeguarding there is no requirement to share reports with the Health and Wellbeing Board, however these are being shared in line with previous practice for the former Safeguarding Children Board in order to support understanding across partnerships and effective partnership working across systems.

#### **Background**

##### **Statutory Framework**

7. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 amended the Children Act 2004 to give the Safeguarding partners for Leicestershire a shared and equal duty to agree and make

arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the local area. The partners are:

- The local authority Chief Executive
- The accountable officer of a clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area
- The chief officer of police for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area

8. The LRSCP was established on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for Leicestershire and Rutland in line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017, operating under statutory guidance issued in Working Together 2018.
9. In addition to making these arrangements safeguarding partners must:
  - Ensure there is independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements
  - Commission and publish local child safeguarding practice reviews into serious safeguarding incidents
  - Report regularly on the effectiveness of the arrangements
10. The local arrangements are published on the safeguarding children partnership website [www.lrsb.org.uk](http://www.lrsb.org.uk).

### **Annual Report 2020/21**

11. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to report what has been done by the Partnership and the partners to safeguard children and young people in Leicestershire and Rutland during the previous year and how effective the partnership arrangements have been.
12. The full version of the Annual Report 2020/21 is attached as Appendix A.

### **Key Messages**

13. The key messages from the LRSCP relevant to the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board are:
  - a) Partnership working for safeguarding children was strong under challenging circumstances around the pandemic.
  - b) The partnership was able to identify and respond to emerging concerns during the pandemic, including those related to changes in service provision.
  - c) The availability of support for the mental health of children and young people and the impact of this on the welfare and safeguarding of young people, remains a concern for young people and the partnership.
  - d) Safeguarding babies was a notable emerging concern during the pandemic and a number of workstreams are in place to improve this in line with learning from recent local and national reviews.
  - e) Hearing and responding to the voice and lived experience of children is improving, but is still not consistent.
  - f) The Safeguarding Children Partnership led by the statutory partners - the local authorities, the clinical commissioning groups for the area and the police will take forward multi-agency work to safeguarding children

## **Business Plan 2021/22**

14. The LRSCP Business plan sets out the specific action on the Partnership's priorities for 2021/22. The plan is shared with Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCPb).
15. The Business Plan was formulated through a joint development session of the LRSCP and LSCPb and the Safeguarding Adult Boards for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland held on 22 January 2021.
16. The future improvement priorities identified in the Annual Report 2020/21 have been built into the Business Plan. In addition to reflecting issues arising from the Annual Report the new Business Plan priorities have been identified against a range of national and local drivers including:
  - national safeguarding policy initiatives and drivers;
  - recommendations from regulatory inspections across partner agencies;
  - the outcomes of serious case reviews, serious incident learning processes, domestic homicide reviews and other review processes both national and local;
  - evaluation of the business plans for 2020/21 including analysis of impact afforded by the quality assurance and performance management framework;
  - best practice reports issued at both national and local levels;
17. The LRSCP Business Plan is Appended as Appendix B and the priorities are outlined in the table below.

### **LRSCP Business Plan Priorities**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Summary</b>
1. Safeguarding Babies	Develop local approaches to safeguarding babies to take account of local and national learning and recent changes related to the pandemic.
2. Safeguarding and Mental Health	Gain assurance that mental health and safeguarding children are effectively addressed together.
3. Domestic Abuse	Gain assurance that partners work to improve the wellbeing of children affected by domestic abuse
4. Harm outside the home	Establish the local approach to safeguarding children from harm outside the home.
5. Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds	Understand and make improvements to how well we work together with children and families from different backgrounds to safeguard children.
6. Covid-19	Understand and respond to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on Safeguarding Adults and Children

## **Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement**

18. The annual report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the SCP has carried out with children and young people and with practitioners.
19. All members of the Safeguarding Children Partnership have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on the annual report

## **Resource Implications**

20. There are no resource implications arising from the recommendation in this report. The LRSCP operates with a budget to which partner agencies contribute under a single funding arrangement across the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

## **Timetable for Decisions**

21. The Annual Report was published on 30 September 2021 on the Safeguarding Partnership's website [www.lrsb.org.uk](http://www.lrsb.org.uk). Comments from the Health and Wellbeing Board will feed into the planning and reporting process for the coming year.

## **Background papers**

None

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

Appendix B - Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships' Business Plan 2021/22

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## **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. Equality and Inclusion is a specific consideration in the review and assurance work of the Safeguarding partnership. The Safeguarding Partnership is carrying out a specific piece of work to assess

safeguarding work with children and families from diverse backgrounds as part of its business plan for 2021/22 and will follow this up with improvement work as identified.

### Crime and Disorder Implications

23. There is a close connection between the work of the LRSCP and that of community safety partnerships in Leicestershire. For example the SCP 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 e.g. Domestic Abuse. The LRSAB also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations

### Partnership Working and associated issues

24. Safeguarding is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation, Working Together 2018, published by the Department for Education.

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