

Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

Terms of Reference

Purpose and Role

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is a partnership group responsible for supporting Leicestershire County Council in meeting its duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Board will work together to support, advise, and work in partnership with Leicestershire County Council to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within relevant safe accommodation services. The Board will establish an equitable partnership that reflects the needs of those impacted by domestic abuse in the local area and works to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to appropriate and specialist support within relevant safe accommodation services.

The Board will work together to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach to identifying and addressing gaps in support within relevant safe accommodation services.

Frequency of meetings

The Board will meet quarterly.

Membership

The Board is made up of a number of responsible bodies and agencies that by law, must be represented:

Tier one local authority representative/s:

Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Leicestershire County Council.
Assistant Director, Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care, Leicestershire County Council.
Public Health, Leicestershire County Council.

Tier two local authority representatives:

Lead member safer communities Blaby District Council / CSP Chair
Lead member safer communities Charnwood Borough Council / CSP Chair
Lead member safer communities Harborough District Council /CSP Chair
Lead member safer communities Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council / CSP Chair
Lead member safer communities Melton Borough Council /CSP Chair
Lead member safer communities North West Leicestershire District Council /CSP Chair
Lead member safer communities Oadby and Wigston District Council / CSP Chair
Director (Community Services) Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council / Chair of Districts Chief Housing Officer Group)

Representatives of victims of domestic abuse:

Healthy Homes Officer, Public Health, Leicestershire County Council.
Voluntary Sector Providers.

Representative/s of children of domestic abuse:

Women's Aid Leicestershire.

Representative/s for charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in the area], including specialist and by and for services:

CEO, Women's Aid Leicestershire
CEO, Living Without Abuse
CEO, Freeva
Project Officer, GATE
CEO, LGBT Centre
CEO, Panaghar
CEO, Zinthya Trust
CEO, New Dawn New Day

Representative/s for health care services:

Clinical Commissioning Groups (or any successor body).

Representative/s for policing or criminal justice:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire
Leicestershire Police
National Probation Service

Chairing the Board

The Board will be chaired by the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Leicestershire County Council.

The Vice Chair of the Board will be appointed at the first meeting of every municipal year.

Members of the Board are responsible for ensuring they report back and feed into the Board on behalf of their represented group / body.

Roles and responsibilities

The Board will:

Provide advice and data to support Leicestershire County Council to undertake a robust local needs assessment to identify and understand the needs of domestic abuse victims within relevant safe accommodation, in their area (including those that present from out of area).

Provide expert advice and data to support the development of a local strategy, agreeing the appropriate steps needed to meet the needs identified – ensuring the needs of all victims, including those with protected characteristics and / or additional complex needs, are represented and met through the strategy.

Support Leicestershire County Council to effectively engage with domestic abuse victims and expert services in understanding the range and complexity of needs.

Support Leicestershire County Council to make commissioning and decommissioning decisions (where appropriate). This can include when and how commissioning is undertaken to ensure the best and most appropriate services are made available for victims.

Note: local authorities should take into consideration that some Board members may have a conflict of interest. Domestic abuse relevant safe accommodation service providers will not be involved with local commissioning decisions in relation to this duty.

Support in ensuring join up across other related areas such as alcohol and drug treatment services, housing, health, early years and childhood support, social services and police and crime services [not limited to].

Advise and support in dealing with issues raised and identified from engagement through formal and informal routes.

Provide advice to Leicestershire County Council about the provision of other local authority domestic abuse support.

All issues will be escalated to the Leicestershire County Council Scrutiny Commission.

Tier one authorities should agree a clear escalation process, with the Board, which members and other local organisations can utilise to raise concerns in regard to the implementation of the duties.

Voting

One representative from each of the responsible bodies and agencies that by law must be represented on the Board is entitled to vote on any matter under discussion by the Board, with the exception that if the vote relates to commissioning or decommissioning of services, Voluntary Sector Service Providers will not be entitled to vote on that matter.

Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the Board will be a minimum of 6 voting members, this to include one representative from Leicestershire County Council and representatives from a minimum of 3 other partner agencies.

Agendas

Members will be able to put forward suggested agenda items for consideration. The secretariat will circulate final agendas 5 working days ahead of meetings.

Standing agenda items will include:

- Data Report;

- Authentic Voice;
- Updates from commissioned services. 6

Absence

Where members are unable to attend a meeting, they are responsible for informing the Board ahead of the meeting and, as far as possible, should ensure a representative is present on behalf of the organisation / body.

Reporting

The Chair / Board will report back to:

- The Leicestershire County Council DA Strategy Working Group (quarterly);
- Leicestershire County Council Scrutiny Commission (annually);
- The Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) (Biannually).

The Board will support Leicestershire County Council in reporting back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on delivering the duty in line with statutory guidance and the standardised reporting form.