

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
5 SEPTEMBER 2022

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Committee on the draft Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board (LRSAB) for 2021/22.
2. The final Annual Report is the report of the Independent Chair who must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding adults in the local area. This is a statutory requirement under the Care Act 2014.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

3. The LRSAB is a statutory body established as a result of the Care Act 2014. The main purpose of the LRSAB is to ensure effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.
4. The Strategic Plan of the LRSAB for 2020-2025 was considered by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 September 2020.

Background

5. Safeguarding Adult Boards have three core duties. They must:
 - Develop and publish a Strategic Plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute;
 - Publish an Annual Report detailing how effective their work has been;
 - Commission Safeguarding Adults' Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.
6. The Annual Report relates to the second of these duties.

Annual report for 2021/22

7. The Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance on the local approach to safeguarding adults in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.
8. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2021/22 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for adults with care and support needs in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically, it evaluates performance

against the priorities that were set out (and are included in the Appendix to this report) in the LRSAB Business Plan 2021/22.

9. The key messages from the LRSAB, specifically in relation to Leicestershire are:
 - a. Partnership working at all levels to safeguard adults with care and support needs has notably strengthened over the past three years during changing circumstances affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - b. There are significant pressures on the health and care system and workforce which is expected to make effective safeguarding of adults more challenging.
 - c. Further work is required to support workers to understand the needs and wants of individuals with Learning Disabilities and Autism in order to effectively support and safeguard them.
 - d. Further analysis of SARs is required to understand any patterns of over-representation or under-representation of certain groups.
 - e. The LRSAB will continue to work together and develop engagement work and links across partnerships to foster a reliable, trusting culture in organisations and across our area and challenge and drive improvement in multi-agency safeguarding of adults.

Proposals/Options

10. The Committee is asked to consider the draft Annual Report for the LRSAB appended to this report and to make any comments or proposed additions or amendments. Any comments will be considered and addressed prior to the final report being published.

Consultation

11. The draft Annual Report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work which the LRSAB has carried out with the public, adults with care and support needs and with practitioners. The circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic have meant this continued to be limited to engagement with specific individuals as part of the work on SARs. Principles for engagement going forward have been drafted, to build upon the existing engagement work that each Board partner already carries out to support appropriate consultation and engagement in future.
12. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.
13. This report to the Committee is part of the consultation on the Annual Report.

Resource Implications

14. There are no resource implications arising from this report. The LRSAB operates with a budget to which partner agencies contribute.

15. SAB statutory partners have, along with Safeguarding Partners for safeguarding children, set a single agreement of principles to share the operating costs of the Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCPs) and SABs for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Costs are shared between the Local Authorities, Police and Integrated Care Boards.
16. As part of this agreement Leicestershire County Council contributes £112,633 to the LRSAB and SCP in 2022/23. This is 31% of the total funding for the LRSAB and SCP (£358,500). This compares with £102,496 in the previous year which was 31% of the total pooled budget for the Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB, SCP and SAB of £327,126 in 2021/22.
17. The Partners of the Leicestershire and Rutland and Leicester SCP and SABs agreed a one-off reduction in contributions for the period of the Annual Report to help them to manage financial challenges. The balance was to be funded from the Safeguarding Partnership's reserve funds. Vacancies in the support office team and underspend on case reviews reduced expenditure to just above the reduced level of the pooled budget. The balance of £468 was taken from the Safeguarding Partnership's reserve funds, which as of 1 April 2022 stood at £98,209. Plans for further use of these reserve funds will be drawn up in the coming year.
18. The County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships' Business Office that supports the LRSAB and the SCP.
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 Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 September 2022 and the Cabinet on 16 September 2022. The Annual Report will be published by the end of September 2022 and presented to a future meeting of Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board.

Background Papers

Report to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 7 September 2020 - LRSAB Annual Report 2019/20, Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 and Business Plan 2020/21: <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1040&MId=6170&Ver=4>

Report to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 6 September 2021 – LRSAB Annual Report 2020/21
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1040&MId=6463&Ver=4>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

21. The LRSAB seeks to ensure that a fair, effective and equitable service is discharged by the partnership to safeguard vulnerable adults. At the heart of the work is a focus on any individual or group that may be at greater risk of safeguarding vulnerability. The Annual Report includes a summary analysis of the characteristics of the subjects of SARs. The LRSAB will carry out a more detailed analysis during 2022/23 as part of the LRSAB Business Plan priority to address hidden harm.

Crime and Disorder Implications

22. The LRSAB 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 Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office also supports Community Safety Partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Partnership Working and Associated Issues

23. Safeguarding is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation relating to the Care Act 2014.

Appendix

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Draft Annual Report 2021/22

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