



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES**

Purpose of the 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 Children Partnership for 2021/22.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 set out specific duties for local authorities, working with partner organisations and agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 puts a duty on the local authority to provide services to children in need in their area; section 47 of the same Act requires local authorities to undertake enquiries if they believe a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm.
3. These duties can only realistically be discharged with the full co-operation of other partners, many of whom have individual duties when carrying out their functions under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.
4. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 (statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) give responsibility for this join-up locally with the safeguarding partners, the Police, Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the local authority, which have a shared and equal duty to agree and make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
5. The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements locally are managed through the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership that covers the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland.

6. It is a statutory requirement, as set out in Working Together 2018, that the Safeguarding Partners publish a report at least once every twelve months on the arrangements and their effectiveness.

Background

7. The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for Leicestershire and Rutland were presented to this Committee on 5 March 2019, prior to being published on 28 June 2019.
8. The Safeguarding Children Partnership shares some operational arrangements with the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) and some partnership structures with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCPB).
9. During the period of the Annual Report the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) for the area were the Safeguarding Partners for health. From 1 April 2022 this responsibility transferred to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for the area.

Annual Report

10. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2021/22 on safeguarding outcomes for children in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically, it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set out in the LRSCP Business Plan 2021/22.
11. The Draft Annual Report 2021/22 is appended to this report. This is the content of the report which will go to design to be finished into the document that will be published.
12. The report outlines the learning, assurance, training and improvement activity of the LRSCP and its partners, and the impact this has had on safeguarding children. Key messages from the SCP specifically in relation to Leicestershire are:
 - a) Partner organisations, workers and managers have worked well together to safeguard children and to identify needs and areas for improvement to safeguard children in the midst of ongoing challenge and change relating to the pandemic and other societal pressures.
 - b) The partnership has responded to emerging risks, such as safeguarding babies.
 - c) More work is required to understand how well the partnership works to safeguard children from diverse backgrounds.
 - d) There remains room for improvement in how the department listens to and responds to the voice and lived experience of children, particularly where there is domestic abuse in the household
 - e) The partnership has worked to improvement engagement with schools from all sectors and improve learning processes
 - f) The partnership will continue to work together, consider and respond to national developments relating to safeguarding, foster a reliable, trusting

culture in organisations and across the area and challenge and drive improvement in multi-agency safeguarding of children.

Proposals/Options

13. The Committee is asked to consider the Annual Report and make any comments or proposed additions or amendments to the report that will be addressed prior to the final version being published.

Consultation

14. The Annual Report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the SCP has carried out with children and young people.
15. All members of the SCP have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.

Resource Implications

16. Safeguarding partners have, along with Safeguarding Adults Board statutory partners set a single agreement of principles to share the operating costs of the Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards for Leicestershire and Rutland.
17. As part of this agreement Leicestershire County Council contributes £112,633 to the SAB and SCP in 2022/23. This is 31% of the total funding for the Leicestershire and Rutland SAB and SCP (£358,500). This compares with £102,496 in the previous year which was 31% of the total budget for the Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB, SCP and SAB of £327,126 in 2021/22.
18. 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 stand at £98,209. Plans for further use of these reserve funds will be drawn up in the coming year.
19. Leicestershire County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Boards' Business Office that supports the SCP and SAB.
20. The Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

Timetable for Decisions

21. The Annual Report of the Safeguarding Children Partnership will be presented to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 September

2022 and the Cabinet on 16 September 2022. The Annual Report will be published by the end of September 2022. Any comments will be considered and addressed prior to the final report being published.

Background Papers

None

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

22. None.

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership 2021/22.

Relevant Impact Assessments:

Equality and Human Rights Implications

23. 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. The Partnership had a specific priority in 2021/22 exploring safeguarding of children from diverse backgrounds. The work on this is continued into 2022/23.

Crime and Disorder Implications

24. There is a close connection between the work of the LRSCP and that of community safety partnerships in Leicestershire. For example, the LRSCP 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, for example domestic abuse and Prevent. The LRSCP also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.

Partnership Working and associated issues

25. 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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