



CABINET – 16 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

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to Cabinet's attention the Annual Report 2021/22 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) for consultation and comment.
2. Any comments or proposed amendments made by the Cabinet will be addressed in the final report before it is published later in September 2022.
3. 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.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes and comments on the LRSAB Annual Report for 2021/22 particularly in relation to the business of the County Council.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. The LRSAB is a statutory body and local authorities have a duty to ensure that the Board is enabled to operate effectively.
6. It is a requirement of the Care Act 2014 that the LRSAB Annual Report be reported to the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive of the local authority, the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner and local Healthwatch.
7. In Leicestershire and Rutland the Annual Report has traditionally also been presented to the Cabinet and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
8. Presenting the Annual Report enables the Cabinet to comment on the content of the Annual Report and consider whether the report identifies matters that it wishes to address in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding within the work of the Authority.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

9. The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board at its meeting on the 5 September 2022 and its comments will be reported to the Cabinet.
10. Any proposed additions or amendments to the Annual Report made by the Cabinet will be considered for incorporation into the final report, before it is published by the end of September 2022.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

11. 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.
12. As outlined above it is a statutory requirement for the Chair of the SAB to publish an annual report into the effectiveness of safeguarding adults arrangements in the local area. This report must be reported to the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive of the local authority, the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner and local Healthwatch.

Resource Implications

13. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. The LRSAB operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
14. Safeguarding Adults Board 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 Safeguarding Adults Boards for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
15. As part of this agreement Leicestershire County Council will contribute £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.
16. 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.
17. Leicestershire County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships' Business Office that supports the SAB and the SCP.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

18. None.

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PART B

Background

Annual Report 2021/22

19. 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 in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically, it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set out in the LRSAB Business Plan 2021/22.
20. A pre-publication draft of the Annual Report 2021/22 can be found in full as the Appendix to this report.
21. The key messages from the LRSAB, specifically in relation to Leicestershire are:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. There are significant pressures on the health and care system and workforce which is expected to make effective safeguarding of adults more challenging.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. Further analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) is required to understand any patterns of over-representation or under-representation of certain groups.
 - v. 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 the area and challenge and drive improvement in multi-agency safeguarding of adults.
22. Work to support safeguarding of adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism and to understand patterns of over or under-representation of certain groups is planned within the SABs business plan for 2022/23.

Consultations

23. The annual report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the SAB has undertaken with the public, adults with care and support needs and with practitioners during 2021/22. 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.
24. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

25. 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

26. The LRSAB works closely with community safety partnerships in Leicestershire 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 Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Environmental Implications

27. There are no environmental implications from the matters covered in the annual report.

Partnership Working and associated issues

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

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 17 September 2021 "Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2020/21"

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6446&Ver=4>

Appendix

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

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