



**CABINET – 16 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

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

**PART A**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the Cabinet's attention the Annual Report 2021/22 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) for consultation and comment.
2. The final Annual Report is the report of the identified Safeguarding Partners who must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children.
3. Any comments or proposed amendments made by the Cabinet will be addressed in the final report before it is published at the end of September

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes and comments on the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) Annual Report for 2021/22.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

5. Leicestershire County Council is one of the statutory Safeguarding Partners who have a shared and equal statutory duty with the local Integrated Care Board and Chief of Leicestershire Police to agree and make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Leicestershire.
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.
7. The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements locally are managed through a partnership – the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership that covers the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland.
8. In Leicestershire and Rutland, the Annual Report has traditionally been presented to the Cabinet and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
9. Presenting the Annual Report enables the Cabinet to comment on the content of this document and consider whether it 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)**

10. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership at its meeting on 6 September 2022 and its comments will be reported to the Cabinet.
11. Any proposed additions or amendments to the Annual Report made by the Cabinet will be considered by the Safeguarding Partners for incorporation into the final documents which will be published by the end of September 2022.

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

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. As stated above the LRSCP manages the statutory multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The arrangements were published on 28 June 2019 and commenced on 29 September 2019. These arrangements replaced the former Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
16. 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.

### **Resource Implications**

17. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. The LRSCP operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
18. Safeguarding partners have, along with Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) statutory partners set a single agreement of principles to share the operating costs of the Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCP) and Safeguarding Adults Boards for Leicestershire and Rutland.
19. 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 SCP and SAB of £327,126 in 2021/22.

20. Leicestershire County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Boards' Business Office that supports the SCP and SAB.

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

21. None.

### **Officers to Contact**

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**PART B****Background**

22. The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for Leicestershire and Rutland were published on 28 June 2019 and commenced on 29 September 2019. The arrangements are reviewed each year by the Safeguarding Partners and changes are reported in the Annual Report.
23. 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).

**Annual Report 2021/22**

24. 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.
25. A pre-publication draft of the Annual Report 2021/22 can be found as the Appendix to this report.
26. The report includes an independent scrutiny assessment of progress from the Independent Advisor to the Partnership Kay Whyte-Bell.
27. 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:
  - i. 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.
  - ii. The Partnership has responded to emerging risks, such as safeguarding babies.
  - iii. More work is required to understand how well the Partnership works to safeguard children from diverse backgrounds.
  - iv. There remains room for improvement in how we listen to and respond to the voice and lived experience of children, particularly where there is domestic abuse in the household
  - v. The Partnership has worked to improve engagement with schools from all sectors and improve learning processes
  - vi. The Partnership will continue to work together; will consider and respond to national developments relating to safeguarding; will foster a reliable, trusting culture in organisations and across the area and challenge and drive improvement in multi-agency safeguarding of children.

**Consultations**

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

**Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet on 17 September 2021 “Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020/21”

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

**Appendix**

Draft Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership 2021/22.

**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

30. 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 Partnership’s Business Plan. The Partnership had a specific priority in 2021/22 to explore the safeguarding of children from diverse backgrounds. The work on this is continued into 2022/23.

**Crime and Disorder Implications**

31. 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.

**Environmental Implications**

32. The published LRSCP Annual Report will primarily be made available on-line in electronic form, rather than paper. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

**Partnership Working and associated issues**

33. Safeguarding children 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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