

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 1 December 2022

**REPORT OF THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS FOR LEICESTERSHIRE
& RUTLAND**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22
AND BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23**

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board the Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) for 2021/22 and the Business Plan of the LRSCP for 2022/23 for information.
2. The Annual report is shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board to highlight safeguarding matters relevant to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and support understanding across partnerships and effective partnership working across systems.

Recommendation

3. The Board is asked to note the Annual Report 2021/22 and Business Plan for 2022/23 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership and the key points of relevance relating to health and wellbeing and the forward plans of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

4. The Safeguarding Partners for Leicestershire are required by regulation to set up multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children as a result of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Expectations of the Multi-agency arrangements are set out in Working Together 2018.
5. The essential contribution of the health and care sector to safeguarding is recognised in statute through the shared and equal responsibility for the multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements between the Integrated Care Board alongside the Local Authorities and Police.
6. Under this statutory framework for safeguarding there is no requirement to share reports with the Health and Wellbeing Board, however these are being shared in line with previous practice for the former Safeguarding Children Board in order to support understanding across partnerships and effective partnership working across systems.

Background

7. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Health and care needs can be linked to safeguarding risk for children and the health and care system can support the prevention of, identification of and response to safeguarding risk.

Statutory Framework

8. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 amended the Children Act 2004 to give the Safeguarding partners for Leicestershire a shared and equal duty to agree and make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the local area. The partners are:
 - The local authority Chief Executive
 - The chief executive of the Integrated Care Board for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area
 - The chief officer of police for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area
9. The LRSCP was established on 30th September 2019 as the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for Leicestershire and Rutland in line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017, operating under statutory guidance issued in Working Together 2018.
10. In addition to making these arrangements safeguarding partners must:
 - Ensure there is independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements
 - Commission and publish local child safeguarding practice reviews into serious safeguarding incidents
 - Report regularly on the effectiveness of the arrangements
11. The local arrangements are published on the safeguarding children partnership website www.lrsb.org.uk.

Annual Report 2021/22

12. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to report what has been done by the Partnership and the partners to safeguard children and young people in Leicestershire and Rutland during the previous year and how effective the partnership arrangements have been.
13. The full version of the Annual Report 2021/22 is attached as Appendix A.

Key Messages

14. The key messages from the LRSCP relevant to the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board are:
 - a) Partnership working for safeguarding children remained strong with increasing pressures on children, families and organisations.
 - b) The availability of mental health beds for children and young people and the impact of this on safeguarding children with complex needs remains a concern for the partnership.
 - c) The partnership supported the development and roll out of the ICON project to safeguard babies by supporting parents to cope with their babies' crying.

- d) Partners work with children affected by domestic abuse could be improved, particularly relating to hearing and responding to their voice and lived experience.
- e) There is further work to do to better understand the impact of the work of the partnership.
- f) The Safeguarding Children Partnership led by the statutory partners - the local authorities, the clinical commissioning groups for the area and the police will take forward multi-agency work to safeguarding children

Business Plan 2022/23

15. The LRSCP Business plan sets out the specific action on the Partnership's priorities for 2022/23. The plan is shared with Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCPBoard).
16. The future improvement priorities identified in the Annual Report 2021/22 have been built into the Business Plan. In addition to reflecting issues arising from the Annual Report the new Business Plan priorities have been identified against a range of national and local drivers including:
 - national safeguarding policy initiatives and drivers;
 - recommendations from regulatory inspections across partner agencies;
 - the outcomes of serious case reviews, serious incident learning processes, domestic homicide reviews and other review processes both national and local;
 - evaluation of the business plans for 2020/21 including analysis of impact afforded by the quality assurance and performance management framework;
 - best practice reports issued at both national and local levels;
17. The LRSCP Business Plan is attached as Appendix B to this report and the priorities are outlined in the table below.

LRSCP Business Plan Priorities

Priority	Summary
1. Safeguarding Babies	Continue to improve how we work together with families before and after births to safeguard babies
2. Child Mental Health and emotional wellbeing	Seek assurance that partners are working to support good mental health for children and that mental health and safeguarding are effectively addressed together
3. Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds	Complete our work to understand and improve how well partners work together with children and families from diverse backgrounds
4. Harm outside the home	Seek assurance that the local approach to safeguarding children from extra-familial threat is effective. This includes priority work on Safeguarding Transitions shared with the Safeguarding Adults Boards.
5. Safeguarding in Independent and Out of School settings	Work with faith groups, independent schools, community organisations and other settings to support them to play an effective role in safeguarding children.

Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

18. The annual report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the SCP has carried out with children and young people and with practitioners.
19. All members of the Safeguarding Children Partnership have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on the annual report and business plan.

Resource Implications

20. There are no resource implications arising from the recommendation in this report. The LRSCP operates with a budget to which partner agencies contribute under a single funding arrangement across the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

Timetable for Decisions

21. The Annual Report was published on 27 October 2022 on the Safeguarding Partnership's website www.lrsb.org.uk. Comments from the Health and Wellbeing Board will feed into the planning and reporting process for the coming year.

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

22. Safeguarding children, young people and adults concerns individuals who are likely to be disadvantaged in a number of ways. Equality and Inclusion is a specific consideration in the review and assurance work of the Safeguarding partnership. The Safeguarding Partnership is carrying out a specific piece of work to assess safeguarding work with children and families from diverse backgrounds as part of its business plan for 2022/23 and will follow this up with improvement work as identified.

Crime and Disorder Implications

23. There is a close connection between the work of the LRSCP and that of community safety partnerships in Leicestershire. For example, the SCP 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 e.g. Domestic Abuse. The LRSAB also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations

Environmental Implications

24. None

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.

Background papers

None

Officers to Contact

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Appendices

Appendix A - Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021/22

Appendix B - Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships' Business Plan 2022/23

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