

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES' STRATEGY BOARD

29th SEPTEMBER 2023

RUTLAND COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) for Rutland County Council to become members of the Board.
2. The report sets out background information and rationale, the legal basis for the application, potential implications/benefits together with recommendations.

Background and Legal Basis

3. Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards are required as a result of Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
4. Section 58(1) of the Act states that "A relevant local authority in England must appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board". Section 61 of the Act defines a relevant local authority as:
 - (a) a County Council;
 - (b) a District Council for an area for which there is no County Council;
 - (c) the Greater London Authority;
 - (d) the Council of the Isles of Scilly.
5. The DALPB was established by Leicestershire County Council to ensure regulatory compliance. It carries out a governance and consultative role for certain functions including:
 - (a) Assessing the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims.
 - (b) Supporting the development and publication of the Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy and giving effect to the Strategy (through monitoring commissioning /de-commissioning needs).
 - (c) Ensuring representation of marginalised groups and those who are underrepresented in local services.
6. Rutland County Council has attended the meetings of this Board as a participating observer. If Rutland's membership of the Board is formalised Rutland Council has indicated that it will retain a group within Rutland to oversee

domestic abuse matters to ensure regulatory compliance under Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

7. Section 58(2) of the Act specifies which organisations must be represented on domestic abuse local partnership boards. This list is not exhaustive and therefore additional members can be added to the DALPB as it wishes.
8. Statutory guidance issued under the Act (*"Delivery of Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services" Section B1 and B2*) specifically broadens membership to include a very wide-range of partners membership. The guidance gives the following steer:

"Tier one authorities may choose to work in close partnership with other tier one authorities to deliver part 4 duties jointly across more than one local authority area, for example working as a regional cluster" (Section B1.1)

"Tier one authorities are encouraged to work collaboratively with neighbouring tier one authorities by, as a minimum sharing local data and service information to support in understanding potential need, join up and consistency" (Section B1.2)

"Where tier one authorities choose to deliver the duty jointly with other tier one authorities, they must ensure the Board adheres to the relevant requirements set out above (section B1 bullets a-g setting out required attendees) – all tier one areas covered under the joint arrangement must be represented" (Section B2.19)

The caveats referenced above 'B1 bullets a-g' refer to attendance by specific partners at the meeting, (these attend DALPB).

Importantly the above extract makes it clear that broader tier 1 collaboration is encouraged and supported.

Rationale for Membership

9. Domestic abuse matters are not restricted to County boundaries and the proposal will provide opportunities to better share information, intelligence and resources and help reduce duplication of work with many of the stakeholders involved covering both Leicestershire and Rutland.
10. A more formalised arrangement with a dedicated Rutland CC attendee at DALPB will engender a more effective partnership working and in particular benefit bordering Districts and Boroughs. By working collaboratively public service organisations can share, expertise, ideas and resources and cost for mutual benefit.

Additional Considerations

11. The Rutland County Council membership of the DALPB will it is proposed necessitate a number of additional ancillary changes, including:
 - (a) Incorporation of Rutland CC data and analysis into DALPB workstreams;
 - (b) Amendments to the DALPB Terms of Reference (TOR) to include Rutland CC membership and changing the name of the Board to 'Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board'. This is a minimal change given tier one authorities are encouraged to cooperate but still required to fulfil responsibilities under legislation in their own right.

12. Both Leicestershire County Council and Rutland Council's respective Cabinets have considered and agreed the proposal subject to the Boards approval.

Recommendations

13. The Board are asked to consider the contents of this report and the proposal that Rutland County Council become members of the Board, and are asked to;
 - (a) Approve Rutland CC membership of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.
 - (b) Subject to the above, approve the proposed amendments to the DALPB Terms of Reference to reflect Rutland CC membership.
 - (c) Indicate any additional/alternate actions required.

Officers to Contact

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Appendix 1 – Draft DALPB Terms of Reference

DRAFT**APPENDIX 1**

**Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Local Partnership
Board**

Terms of Reference

Purpose and Role

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is a partnership group responsible for supporting Leicestershire County Council in meeting its duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Board will work together to support, advise, and work in partnership with Leicestershire County Council to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within relevant safe accommodation services. The Board will establish an equitable partnership that reflects the needs of those impacted by domestic abuse in the local area and works to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to appropriate and specialist support within relevant safe accommodation services.

The Board will work together to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach to identifying and addressing gaps in support within relevant safe accommodation services.

Frequency of meetings

The Board will meet quarterly.

Membership

The Board is made up of a number of responsible bodies and agencies that by law, must be represented:

Tier one local authority representative/s:

Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Leicestershire County Council.
Assistant Director, Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care, Leicestershire County Council.
Public Health, Leicestershire County Council.

Lead Member for Community Safety, Rutland County Council.

Tier two local authority representatives:

Lead member safer communities Blaby District Council / CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Charnwood Borough Council / CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Harborough District Council /CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council / CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Melton Borough Council /CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities North West Leicestershire District Council /CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Oadby and Wigston Borough Council / CSP Chair
 Director (Community Services) Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council / Chair of Districts Chief Housing Officer Group).

Representatives of victims of domestic abuse:

Healthy Homes Officer, Public Health, Leicestershire County Council.

Voluntary Sector Providers.

Representative/s of children of domestic abuse:

Women's Aid Leicestershire.

Representative/s for charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in the area], including specialist and by and for services:

CEO, Women's Aid Leicestershire
 CEO, Living Without Abuse
 CEO, Freeva
 Project Officer, GATE
 CEO, LGBT Centre
 CEO, Panaghar
 CEO, Zinthy Trust
 CEO, New Dawn New Day

Representative/s for health care services:

Integrated Care Board (or any successor body).

Representative/s for policing or criminal justice:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire
 Leicestershire Police
 National Probation Service

Chairing the Board

The Board will be chaired by the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Leicestershire County Council.

The Vice Chair of the Board will be the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Rutland County Council.

Members of the Board are responsible for ensuring they report back and feed into the Board on behalf of their represented group / body.

Roles and responsibilities

The Board will:

Provide advice and data to support Leicestershire County Council to undertake a robust local needs assessment to identify and understand the needs of domestic abuse victims within relevant safe accommodation, in their area (including those that present from out of area).

Provide expert advice and data to support the development of a local strategy, agreeing the appropriate steps needed to meet the needs identified – ensuring the needs of all victims, including those with protected characteristics and / or additional complex needs, are represented and met through the strategy.

Support Leicestershire County Council to effectively engage with domestic abuse victims and expert services in understanding the range and complexity of needs.

Support Leicestershire County Council to make commissioning and decommissioning decisions (where appropriate). This can include when and how commissioning is undertaken to ensure the best and most appropriate services are made available for victims.

Note: local authorities should take into consideration that some Board members may have a conflict of interest. Domestic abuse relevant safe accommodation service providers will not be involved with local commissioning decisions in relation to this duty.

Support in ensuring join up across other related areas such as alcohol and drug treatment services, housing, health, early years and childhood support, social services and police and crime services [not limited to].

Advise and support in dealing with issues raised and identified from engagement through formal and informal routes.

Provide advice to Leicestershire County Council about the provision of other local authority domestic abuse support.

All issues will be escalated to the Leicestershire County Council Scrutiny Commission.

Tier one authorities should agree a clear escalation process, with the Board, which members and other local organisations can utilise to raise concerns in regard to the implementation of the duties.

Voting

One representative from each of the responsible bodies and agencies that by law must be represented on the Board is entitled to vote on any matter under discussion by the Board, with the exception that if the vote relates to commissioning or decommissioning of services, Voluntary Sector Service Providers will not be entitled to vote on that matter.

Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the Board will be a minimum of 6 voting members, this to include one representative from Leicestershire County Council and representatives from a minimum of 3 other partner agencies.

Agendas

Members will be able to put forward suggested agenda items for consideration. The secretariat will circulate final agendas 5 working days ahead of meetings. Standing agenda items will include:

- Data Report;
- Authentic Voice;
- Updates from commissioned services.

Absence

Where members are unable to attend a meeting, they are responsible for informing the Board ahead of the meeting and, as far as possible, should ensure a representative is present on behalf of the organisation / body.

Reporting

The Chair / Board will report back to:

- The Leicestershire County Council DA Strategy Working Group (quarterly).
- Leicestershire County Council Scrutiny Commission (annually).
- The Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) (Biannually).

The Board will support Leicestershire County Council in reporting back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on delivering the duty in line with statutory guidance and the standardised reporting form.

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