



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 31 OCTOBER 2023

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2023-25

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Health and Wellbeing Board with the Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) for 2022/23 and the Business Plan of the LRSCP for 2023-25 for information.
2. The LRSCP 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. This is a statutory requirement under Working Together 2018.
3. 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

4. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) Annual Report for 2022/23 and Business Plan for 2023-25 and the key points of relevance relating to health and wellbeing.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 (statutory guidance on multi-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) give responsibility for this join-up locally to 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.

8. 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. The arrangements were published on 28th June 2019 and commenced on 29th September 2019. These arrangements replaced the former Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The arrangements are reviewed each year by the Safeguarding Partners and changes are reported in the Annual Report. They were updated and re-published in October 2022 [here](#).
9. 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.
10. The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) and the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) share some operational arrangements. They also share some partnership structures with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCPb) and Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB).
11. 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.
12. Under this statutory framework for safeguarding, there is no requirement to share reports with the Health and Wellbeing Board. However the Annual Report is being shared following publication in line with previous practice in order to support understanding across partnerships and effective partnership working across systems.

Background

LRSCP Annual Report 2022/23

13. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2022/23 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 2022/23.
14. 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.
15. The full version of the Annual Report 2022/23 is provided as Appendix A.
16. Key messages from the SCP specifically in relation to the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board 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 post-pandemic era and other societal pressures such as the cost-of-living crisis.
 - b) The partnership has continued its work to respond to emerging risks, such as safeguarding babies. For example, early in 2022/23, ICON was launched across the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. ICON is an evidenced-based programme focused on reducing abusive head trauma (AHT) triggered by crying. The mnemonic ICON outlines the key messages of the programme: infant crying is

normal, comforting methods can help, it's OK to walk away, and never, ever shake a baby.

- c) The partnership continued with work established in 2021 around Child Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing.
- d) The partnership completed work seeking assurance on Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents after establishing a Task & Finish group.
- e) Work has continued to understand how well the partnership works to safeguard children from diverse backgrounds.
- f) The partnership has worked to improve engagement with schools from all sectors and improve learning processes with its priority of Effective Safeguarding in Independent and Out of School settings. This included setting up an independent schools' forum during 2022/23. The forum allows independent schools to consider topics specific to them such as safeguarding across borders, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse on residential schools, and guardian arrangements.
- g) 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 our area and challenge and drive improvement in multi-agency safeguarding of children.

Business Plan 2023-25

- 17. The LRSCP Business Plan sets out the key deliverables and activities required regarding the Partnership's priorities for 2023-25. The plan is shared with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCPBoard) and is [published](#) on the Safeguarding Partnership's website www.lrsb.org.uk.
- 18. The LRSCP Business Plan is provided as Appendix B to this report and the priorities are outlined in the table below. Five of the priorities have been continued from the previous Business Plan due to the continued national and local prevalence of these themes and the breadth of the work requiring completion to achieve an appropriate level of assurance.

1. Safeguarding Babies	Continue to improve how the partnership works together with families before and after births to safeguard babies
2. Child Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Safeguarding	Seek assurance that partners are working to support good mental health for children and that mental health and safeguarding are effectively addressed together
3. Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents	Work to develop a life-stage approach to safeguarding children relating to extra-familial threat/harm outside the home
4. Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds	Complete work to understand and improve how well partners work together with children and families from diverse backgrounds

5. Effective 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
6. Transitional Safeguarding	Work with the local Safeguarding Adults Boards to seek assurance that Transitional Safeguarding is being managed appropriately across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

19. The Annual Report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the SCP has carried out with children and young people and practitioners. There are several quotations included in the report.
20. All members of the SCP have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on drafts of the Annual Report.
21. Prior to publication, the LRSCP Annual Report was considered by the County Council's Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. Both groups welcomed the report.

Resource Implications

22. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. The LRSCP and LRSAB operate within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
23. 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 Partnership (SCP) and Safeguarding Adults Board for Leicestershire and Rutland.
24. As of 1st April, the Safeguarding Partnerships' reserve funds stand at £168,895. Plans for further use of these reserve funds will be drawn up in the coming year.
25. Leicestershire County Council hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office that supports the SAB and the SCP.

Timetable for Decisions

26. The [Annual Report was published](#) on 19th September 2023 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.

Background Papers

27. Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 1st December 2022 "[Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021/22](#)".

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

28. None.

List of Appendices

29. Appendix A: Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership 2022/23.

Appendix B: Joint Business Plan for the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships 2023-25

Officers to Contact

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Relevant Impact Assessments**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 2022/23 to explore the safeguarding of children from diverse backgrounds. The work on this is continued into 2022/23.

Health Implications

31. 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.

Crime and Disorder Implications and Environmental Implications

32. 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.

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

Partnership Working and associated issues

34. 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.