

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
2 SEPTEMBER 2024

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Committee on the draft Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) for 2023/24, attached as Appendix A to this report.
2. The Annual Report is the report of the Independent Chair of the LRSAB 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.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

3. 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 adults with care and support needs.
4. The Committee considered the Strategic Plan of the LRSAB for 2020-2025 at its meeting on 7 September 2020.

Background

5. Safeguarding Adults Boards have three core duties. They must:
 - Develop and publish a Strategic Plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute;
 - Publish an Annual Report detailing how effective their work has been;
 - Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews for any cases which meet the criteria for these.
6. The Annual Report relates to the second of these duties.

Annual report for 2023/24

7. The Annual Report provides details of the performance on the local approach to safeguarding adults in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.

8. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2023/24 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for adults with care and support needs in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically, it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set out in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) SAB Business Plan 2023-25, which is attached for reference as Appendix B.
9. The key messages from the LRSAB, specifically in relation to Leicestershire are:
 - a) As is reported nationally, there continues to be pressure on the health and care services and their partners in Leicestershire, and in turn this impacts on the workforce.
 - b) Regarding the Self-Neglect business priority, the Board has continued work to replace the current Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM) Guidance with refreshed and rebranded LLR Self-Neglect Guidance and templates. Learning from local reviews and audits has indicated that there are some issues around the thresholds for the current VARM process. Consequently, there will be more in the new local Self-Neglect Guidance about risk levels and different types of services, with a view to ensuring each individual receives the right type of intervention. A Task and Finish Group has been working on this update.

The learning points from a Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Review and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' Multi-Agency Cuckooing Audit, completed in 2022-23, and Self-Neglect Audit completed in April 2024, have been fed into the process and will inform the new guidance. Cuckooing is a form of action, termed by the police, in which the home of a vulnerable person is taken over by a criminal in order to facilitate exploitation, usually associated with county lines drug trafficking.

The Board has continued to monitor, on a quarterly basis via the core dataset, the number of concluded enquiries where self-neglect is recorded as the type of abuse. Further work is being undertaken to capture business plan priority metrics, which will not be solely data driven work.

- c) In regard to the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) priority, a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' Multi-Agency Mental Capacity Audit was completed in October 2023.

The Board:

- commissioned Edge Training to provide MCA Training specific to the learning needs of the Safeguarding Adults Boards.
- started to consider how to establish an MCA Community of Practice which will bring staff together for MCA learning and development.
- delivered presentations on the MCA in Practice at the December 2023 Safeguarding Matters Live Event and to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships/ Safeguarding Adults Boards Voluntary and Community Sector Forum in February 2024.

- received a report from University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) on the management of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS) applications.
- d) In relation to the Domestic Abuse Business Priority, the Partnership supported a Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Research Project, entitled “Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse Against Older Adults: Characteristics, Risk Factors and Professional Responses”, carried out by Durham University. The final draft of the report was presented to the Safeguarding Adults Boards at the end of 2023-24. Local partners are now considering the implications for their single agencies. The Safeguarding Adults Boards will then identify where a collective response, actions and monitoring are required. The results of this research will be actioned during the next business year 2024/25.

The Board has also adapted a short video, produced by Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board, for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland about Domestic Abuse in Older People, entitled “Hidden Harms”. It is now available on the Leicester, LRSAB YouTube Channel [here](#) and has been widely promoted.

The Board carried out awareness raising in relation to the category of domestic abuse and the relationship between the people involved in the safeguarding enquiry.

- e) There were fewer Safeguarding Adults Reviews commenced in 2023/24. Work continues to implement the lessons learnt from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

Proposals/Options

10. The Committee is asked to consider the draft Annual Report for the LRSAB appended to this report and to make any comments or proposed additions or amendments. Any comments will be considered and addressed prior to the final report being published, if required.

Consultation

11. The Annual Report is produced as a summary of the work of the SAB which has been carried out in relation to safeguarding and prevention. The report will be published later in September 2024 on the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board website [here](#).
12. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.

Resource Implications

13. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report covering April 2023 to March 2024.
14. The LRSAB operates with a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
15. Safeguarding Adults Board partners have, along with safeguarding partners for safeguarding children, agreed to share the operating costs of the Safeguarding

Children Partnership (SCP) and SAB for Leicestershire and Rutland. Costs are shared between the Local Authorities, Police and Integrated Care Board.

16. As part of this agreement the County Council contributed £119,266 to the SAB and SCP in 2023/24. This is 33% of the total funding for the SAB and SCP (£364,633). This matches the contribution from 2022/23.
17. Expenditure has increased this year by £18,203. Staffing costs increased as a result of the agreed Leicestershire County Council pay award (as the staff are hosted by this Local Authority). Expenditure on Safeguarding Adults Reviews decreased due to the number of reviews already being in an advanced stage and alternative methodologies being used, as appropriate. As of 1 April 2024, the Safeguarding Adults Board's reserve funds stand at £95,350. Plans for further use of these reserve funds will be drawn up in the coming year. This amount has been held due to a potential increase in costs and has meant that partners have not been asked for an increase; however, this surplus will eventually be used and therefore all partners will be expected to ensure that the LRSAB is self-sufficient.
18. The County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office that supports the SAB and the SCP.

Timetable for Decisions

19. This report seeks comments from this Committee prior to presenting the report to Cabinet on 13 September 2024, particularly in relation to the business of the County Council.
20. Subject to consideration by the Cabinet, the Annual Report will be published by the end of September 2024 and presented at the meeting of Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board on 26 September 2024 (to highlight safeguarding matters relevant to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and support effective partnership working).

Background Papers

Report to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th September 2023: "[Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23](#)".

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Equality Implications

21. The LRSAB seeks to ensure that a fair, effective and equitable service is discharged by the partnership to safeguard adults with care and support needs. 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 Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

Human Rights Implications

22. There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

Crime and Disorder Implications

23. The LRSAB works closely with Community Safety Partnerships in Leicestershire to scrutinise and challenge performance in community safety issues that affect the safeguarding and wellbeing 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

24. The published LRSAB 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

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

Appendices

- Appendix A – Draft Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24
- Appendix B – Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Business Plan 2023-25.

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