



**CABINET – 13 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**

**PART A**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the Annual Report 2023/24 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB). The draft Annual Report is appended 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.
3. The Annual Report will be published later in September 2024.

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes the LRSAB Annual Report for 2023/24, particularly in relation to the business of the County Council.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

5. The LRSAB is a statutory body, and the Local Authority is the host organisation for the Safeguarding Adults Board and also has a duty to ensure that the Board is enabled to operate effectively.
6. It is a requirement of the Care Act 2014 that the LRSAB Annual Report be reported to the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive of the Local Authority, the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and local Healthwatch.
7. In Leicestershire and Rutland, the Annual Report has traditionally, as a way of discharging these responsibilities, also been presented to the Cabinet and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

8. The LRSAB Annual Report was considered by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Its comments will be reported to the Cabinet meeting.
9. Any proposed suggestions or amendments to the Annual Report made by the Cabinet (and the Scrutiny Committee) can be considered for incorporation into the final report.
10. The Annual Report will be presented to Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board on 26 September, to highlight safeguarding matters relevant to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and to support effective partnership working.
11. The Annual Report will be published by the end of September 2024.

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

12. 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.
13. As outlined above, it is a statutory requirement for the Chair of the LRSAB to publish an annual report into the effectiveness of safeguarding adults' arrangements in the local area.

### **Resource Implications**

14. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report covering the period from April 2023 to March 2024.
15. The LRSAB operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
16. Safeguarding Adults Board partners have, along with Safeguarding Partners for safeguarding children, set a single agreement of principles to share the operating costs of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) and the LRSAB.
17. As part of this agreement, the County Council contributed £119,266 to the LRSAB and LRSCP in 2023/24. This is 33% of the total funding for the LRSAB and LRSCP (£364,633). This matches the contribution in 2022/23.
18. Expenditure has increased this year by £18,203. Staffing costs increased as a result of the agreed the 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<sup>st</sup> 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.

19. Leicestershire County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office that supports the LRSAB and the LRSCP.

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

20. None.

#### **Officers to Contact**

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

#### Annual Report 2023/24

21. 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 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.
22. A pre-publication draft of the Annual Report 2023/24 can be found in full as the Appendix to this report.
23. 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 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 practice where people take over a person's home and use it to facilitate exploitation).

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 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, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board YouTube Channel [here](#) and has been widely promoted.

The Board has 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.

### **Consultation**

24. The draft Annual Report is produced as a summary of the work of the LRSAB which has been carried out in relation to safeguarding and prevention. The report will be published on the Leicestershire and Rutland Board’s website [here](#).
25. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.
26. The Annual Report was considered by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and its comments will be reported to the Cabinet.

### **Equality Implications**

27. 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**

28. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

29. The LRSAB works closely with Community Safety Partnerships in Leicestershire 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 Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office also supports Community Safety Partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.

### **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023: [“Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2022/23”](#).

### **Appendix**

Draft Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24.