

**CABINET – 12 SEPTEMBER 2025****DRAFT LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS
BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025****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 present the draft Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) Annual Report 2024-2025.
2. The Safeguarding Adults Board's (SAB's) Annual Report is the report of the Independent Chair 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 for Leicestershire and Rutland will be published later in September 2025.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes and comments on the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2024-2025.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. The LRSAB is a statutory body, and the Local Authority is the host organisation for the SAB 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 1 September. The Committee's comments will be reported to the Cabinet.
9. Any proposed suggestions or amendments to the Annual Report made by the Cabinet can be considered for incorporation into the final report, if required, before it is published by the end of September 2025.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

10. The LRSAB is a statutory body established as a result of the Care Act 2014. The main purpose of the SAB is to ensure effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of adults with care and support needs.
11. As outlined above, it is a statutory requirement for the Chair of the SAB to publish an annual report into the effectiveness of safeguarding adults' arrangements in the local area.

Resource Implications

12. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report covering April 2024 to March 2025.
13. The LRSAB operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
14. SAB partners have, along with Safeguarding Partners for safeguarding children, set a single agreement of principles to share the operating costs of the Safeguarding Children Partnership and SAB for Leicestershire and Rutland.
15. As part of this agreement, the County Council contributed £46,375 to the SAB in 2024-2025. This is 30% of the total funding for the SAB (£154,808). This matches the contribution from 2023-2024.
16. Expenditure has increased this year by £16,711. Staffing costs increased because of the agreed Local Government pay award (as the staff are hosted by the Local Authority). Expenditure on Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) decreased due to the number of reviews already being in an advanced stage and alternative methodologies being used, as appropriate. Costs have risen and the SAB spent a little more than it received from partners' contributions. The shortfall was made up from reserves. Although costs have increased, despite budget constraints, the SAB has still achieved an increased training programme linked to the Mental Capacity Act Business Priority and launched new safeguarding adults' resources.
17. As of 1 April 2025, the SAB's reserve funds stand at £117,721. This amount has been held due to a foreseen increase in costs and has meant that partners have not been asked for an increase in contributions; however, this surplus will eventually be used and therefore all partners will be expected to ensure that the LRSAB is self-sufficient.

18. Leicestershire County Council hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office that supports the SAB and the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

19. None.

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PART B

Background

Annual Report 2024-2025

20. The LRSAB brings together organisations from the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors across the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland to oversee the multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults with care and support needs. The local safeguarding adults arrangements are led by the statutory safeguarding partners – the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland Council – and an Independent Chair in accordance with the Care Act 2014. As it shares several partners with the Leicester SAB, the LRSAB publishes a joint strategic plan and business plan and shares joint meetings, a number of subgroups and an Independent Chair with the Leicester SAB.
21. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2024-2025 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 Safeguarding Adults Boards' [Business Plan 2023-2025](#).
22. A pre-publication draft of the Annual Report 2024-2025 can be found in full as the Appendix to this report.
23. The key messages from the LRSAB for Leicestershire are:
 - The proportion of safeguarding alerts becoming safeguarding enquiries (also known as the conversion rate) in Leicestershire fell from 46% in 2023-2024 to 36% in 2024-2025, in part due to the greater increase in alerts (+68%) compared to enquiries (+32%). A “safeguarding concern” (known locally as an alert) is made to raise concerns that an adult is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect. A concern may arise because of a disclosure, an incident, or other signs or indicators. A concern can be raised by anyone including the person at risk, family, friends, professionals, and other members of the public. Where concerns require further investigation under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, a “safeguarding adults enquiry” is initiated. This enables concerns to be addressed promptly, minimising risk. Leicestershire was in the top quartile in 2023-2024 national data. The national data for 2024-2025 has not yet been published; Leicestershire is expecting that the 36% for this year will bring it closer to the national average. Locally, it is comparable to Leicester City and Rutland.
 - A new feature of the work undertaken by the SAB is to oversee and include rough sleeping within its assurance role.
 - New Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland safeguarding adults' resources for members of the public have been launched, which have been co-produced with the Leicester City Making It Real group. The Making it Real Group is made up of people who draw on social care or who care for someone who does, as well as

people who work in social care. By working with people with lived experience, the SABs have produced user-friendly and accessible resources. They are available via the following link – [Leaflets webpage](#).

- It is evident that the Self-Neglect business priority, in place for 2023-2025, achieved a good level of assurance and so it has not been carried over to the 2025-2027 Business Plan. It is acknowledged, though, that self-neglect is a prevalent type of abuse recorded in SARs nationally. Additionally, the local work completed in 2024-2025, with the publication of the [Responding to Self-Neglect \(including Hoarding\) Guidance](#), represents a significant procedural change. It will take some time for the new process and guidance to become embedded. In 2025-2026, an audit on the new Self-Neglect guidance will be completed once it has been in place for a year. The audit will test if the new guidance is embedded and what difference it is making.
- Mental Capacity has been an ongoing theme in multi-agency audits and SARs, both nationally and locally. A lot of work has been completed around this theme. While the business priority will not be carried forward to 2025-2027, the work on this theme will continue because it is acknowledged that Mental Capacity Act learning and development is a process and not about a one-off learning event. Additional bespoke training courses have been commissioned for 2025-2026 to address themes identified in local SARs. An audit on the Mental Capacity Act, following up from one completed in 2023-2024, will be completed in 2025-2026. The aim is to understand what change there has been since the last audit and subsequent work across the partnerships.
- Training on Domestic Abuse in older adults and safeguarding adults, the third business priority for 2023-2025, will continue across the partnership within individual agencies. Additionally, there was a presentation on the learning from the Research Project completed by Durham University, and supported by the SABs, and the local response and picture at Safeguarding Matters Live (online briefing for multi-agency practitioners) in July 2025. The whole event was focused on Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding.
- One SAR was published in 2024-2025, SAR “Godavari”, which is referred to in the Annual Report. During 2024-2025, the LRSAB received four new referrals for consideration of a SAR. Three cases met the criteria for a SAR and reviews have been commenced. One case did not meet the criteria for a SAR.

Consultations

24. The draft Annual Report is produced as a summary of the work of the SAB which has been carried out in relation to safeguarding and prevention. A copy of the report will be published on the Leicestershire and Rutland website – <https://lrsb.org.uk/sab-annual-reports-and-business>.
25. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.

Equality Implications

26. 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 SARs.

Human Rights Implications

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

Crime and Disorder Implications

28. 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 LRSAB also supports Community Safety Partnerships in carrying out Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, previously called Domestic Homicide Reviews, and acting on their recommendations.

Health Implications

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

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 13 September 2024: "[Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2023/24](#)".

Report to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 September 2025 – "Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024-2025" <https://cexmodgov01/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1040&MId=7854>

Appendix

Draft Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024-2025.