



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 25 SEPTEMBER 2025
REPORT OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP
YEARLY REPORT 2024-25 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2025-27

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Health and Wellbeing Board with the Yearly Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) for 2024-25 and the Business Plan of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships for 2025-27 for information.
2. The LRSCP Yearly Report is the report of the identified Safeguarding Partners (Integrated Care Board, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council) who must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children. This is a statutory requirement under Working Together 2023.
3. The Yearly 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. It is asked that the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Yearly Report for 2024-25 and Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships' Business Plan for 2025-27 and the key points of relevance relating to health and wellbeing.

Policy Framework and Previous Decision

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 2023 (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 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 LRSCP – that covers the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The arrangements were published on 28 June 2019 and commenced on 29 September 2019. These arrangements replaced the former Local Safeguarding Children Board.
9. Following the publication of the new Working Together 2023 in December 2023, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements were reviewed and updated. Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements should be based on Local Authority areas. Arrangements can cover two or more local authority boundaries by agreement. As a number of partners are shared with Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership, for the new iteration of the arrangements it was agreed that joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements would be published. They were published in December 2024, in line with government timescales. <https://lrsb.org.uk/uploads/leicester-leicestershire-rutland-multi-agency-safeguarding-arrangements-december-2024.pdf?v=1734689128>
10. The LRSCP and the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board share some operational arrangements. They also share some partnership structures with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership and Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board.
11. It is a statutory requirement, as set out in Working Together 2023, 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 Yearly 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 Yearly Report 2024-25

13. The key purpose of the Yearly Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2024-25 on safeguarding outcomes for children in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically, it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set out in the Business Plan 2023-25.

<https://lrsb.org.uk/uploads/leicester-leicestershire-rutland-safeguarding-children-partnerships-joint-business-plan-2023-25.pdf?v=1695986580>

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 Yearly Report 2024-25 is provided as Appendix A.
16. Key messages from the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) to the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board are:
 - The “Safeguarding Babies” priority has been in place since 2021-22 and a lot of work has been completed in this time, with the implementation of ICON¹, an updated Pre-Birth and Post Birth Planning procedure and the launch of the Safer Sleeping Risk Assessment Tool. Also, during this time, there have been numerous training events and individual courses, both in person and online, and a range of learning and development resources have been produced and disseminated. It is evident that this business priority has achieved a good level of assurance and so it has not been carried over to the 2025-27 Business Plan. It is acknowledged, though, that further awareness raising is required around key guidance and resources, particularly with a large and dynamic workforce. Therefore, babies will always be seen as a key cohort of focus for the SCP.
 - Since its inception in 2021-22, it is felt that the “Child Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing” business priority has achieved a good level of assurance and so it has not been carried over to the 2025-27 Business Plan. It is acknowledged, though, that children’s mental health continues to be a subject of both local and national importance. Therefore, the Planning and Delivery Group of the SCPs will continue to seek assurance that mental health and safeguarding are effectively addressed together locally by receiving CAMHS highlight reports.
 - A priority on “Harm Outside the Home” has been included in the Business Plan for 2025-27, which will build on the progress made since 2022-23 around the “Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents” priority. <https://lrsb.org.uk/uploads/leicester-leicestershire-and-rutland-safeguarding-children-partnerships-joint-business-plan-2025-27.pdf?v=1747653128> This acknowledges the continued prevalence of this theme nationally, with persistent concern about the themes raised in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, including group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and grooming gangs. Implementation of the Online Safety Act 2023 is also at the forefront of national interest, following the release of the Netflix drama Adolescence, and with Ofcom’s child safety measures coming into force for social

¹ 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: **I**nfant crying is normal, **C**omforting methods can help, **I**t’s **OK** to walk away, and **N**ever, ever shake a baby.

media, search and gaming apps and websites in July 2025.² Assurance around the local response to these themes continues to be required.

- A priority on “Belonging” has been included in the Business Plan for 2025-27, which will build on the progress made since 2021-22 around the “Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds” priority. This will continue to seek assurance around the work already in progress and address the questions for SCPs raised in the briefing from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel – “‘It’s Silent’: Race, racism and safeguarding children’”.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/race-racism-and-safeguarding-children>
- It is evident that the “Effective Safeguarding in independent and out of school settings” business priority has achieved a good level of assurance and has led to the embedding of key, and ongoing, forums and so it will not be carried over to the 2025-27 Business Plan. The role of Local Authorities around safeguarding and supporting home educated children is due to increase, in light of the new duties and responsibilities to be introduced through the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill. This includes the creation of a Children not in School Register. These national changes will inform any required changes to local policies and procedures.
- “Transitional safeguarding” has been carried forward to both the SCPs’ Business Plan for 2025-27 and Safeguarding Adults Boards’ Business Plan for 2025-27. <https://lrsb.org.uk/uploads/leicester-leicestershire-and-rutland-safeguarding-adults-boards-strategy-and-business-plan-2025-2031.pdf?v=1751997974> It has been incorporated into a thematic priority, on “Belonging” for the SCPs and “Equality, Diversity and Inclusion” for the Safeguarding Adults Boards, so that the cohort of children and young people to be addressed can be clearer and more targeted.

Business Plan 2025-27

17. The Business Plan 2025-27 sets out the key deliverables and activities required regarding the Partnerships’ priorities for 2025-27. The plan is shared with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership and is published on the Safeguarding Partnership’s website www.lrsb.org.uk.

18. The priorities for 2025-27 are:

- Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)
- Neglect
- Harm Outside the Home
- Belonging

19. The Business Plan is provided as Appendix B to this report.

² <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

Proposals/Options

20. Not applicable.

Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

- 21. The Yearly Report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the SCP has carried out with children, young people and families.
- 22. All members of the SCP have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on drafts of the Yearly Report.
- 23. Prior to publication, the LRSCP Yearly Report was considered by the County Council's Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. Both groups welcomed the report.

Resource Implications

- 24. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report.
- 25. The LRSCP operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
- 26. Safeguarding partners have, along with Safeguarding Adults Board partners, set a single agreement of principles to share the operating costs of the SCP and Safeguarding Adults Board for Leicestershire and Rutland.
- 27. As part of this agreement, Leicestershire County Council contributed £66,258 to the SCP in 2024-25. This is 33% of the total funding for the SCP (£203,092). This matches the contribution provided in 2023-24.
- 28. Expenditure overall was £246,270. Although costs have risen, evidence suggests that the output of the Partnership demonstrates value for money. The difference between funding and expenditure was covered by the SCP's reserve funds.
- 29. As of 1 April 2025, the SCP'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 LRSCP is self-sufficient.
- 30. Leicestershire County Council hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office that supports the SCP and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Timetable for Decisions

- 31. The Yearly Report was published on 23 September 2025 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

32. Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 26 September 2024:
https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s185516/LRSCP%20Annual%20Report_HWB.pdf

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

33. Not applicable.

Appendices

34. Appendix A: Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Yearly Report 2024-25

Appendix B: Joint Business Plan for the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships 2025-27

Officer to contact

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality Implications

35. Safeguarding children and young people concerns individuals who are likely to be disadvantaged in a number of ways. Information on the differing needs of and impacts on different groups of individuals with regard to safeguarding is considered as part of the process to develop the Business Plan. The Partnerships initiated a specific priority in 2021-22 exploring safeguarding of children from diverse backgrounds. The work on this continued until 2024-25. Moving forwards, the SCPs have established a “Belonging” priority in their Business Plan for 2025-27 (joint with Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership).

Human Rights Implications

36. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Health Implications

37. 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.

Crime and Disorder Implications

38. There is a close connection between the work of the LRSCP and that of Community Safety Partnerships in Leicestershire. For example, the SCP 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 Abuse Related Death Reviews, previously called Domestic Homicide Reviews, and acting on their recommendations.

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