



**ADULTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE 7 SEPTEMBER 2026**

**DRAFT LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS
BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026**

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

Purpose of 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 2025-2026, attached as an appendix 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 Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is to ensure effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of adults with care and support needs.
4. The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' [Strategic Plan 2025-2031](#) was presented to the Committee on 1 September 2025. It includes the Business Plan for 2025-2027.
5. The strategic priorities for 2025-2031 are:
 - Leadership and Partnership
 - Performance, Quality and Audit
 - Meeting statutory responsibilities
 - Understanding our communities
 - Prevention, including awareness raising within our diverse communities.

The business plan priorities for 2025-27 are:

- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Timeliness and proportionality
- Impact of learning.

Background

6. SABs 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.

7. 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, namely the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County 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.

Annual Report 2025-2026

8. The Annual Report provides details of the performance of the local approach to safeguarding adults in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.
9. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2025-2026 on safeguarding outcomes for adults with care and support needs in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically, it evaluates performance against the priorities that are set out in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' [Business Plan 2025-2027](#).
10. The key messages from the LRSAB for Leicestershire are:
- The Safeguarding Adults Board is analysing safeguarding adults' data and disproportionality to understand which communities might require targeted work to support safeguarding engagement. It has progressed work to identify how the partnership responds to safeguarding alerts/concerns, including conversion to enquiries, how long it takes to make people safe and what people are doing, i.e. safeguarding plans.
 - In 2025-2026, 4,337 safeguarding alerts were received in Leicestershire, as opposed to 2,908 at the end of last year (2024-2025). The increase in safeguarding alerts over the past year is considered to be a reflection of work with partner agencies in identifying and reporting potential safeguarding concerns to the local authority. Despite the rise in alerts, the conversion rate (calculated by dividing the total number of alerts received by the number of enquiries undertaken) has remained stable, providing assurance that safeguarding criteria continue to be applied consistently and that enquiries are undertaken proportionately where Care Act criteria are met. The conversion rate over the last year was 35.4%, which is similar to the latest published national data of 34.5% and slightly above the regional rate of 29.5%. Numbers have remained stable across both alerts and enquiries, relating to demographics including gender, age and ethnicity.

- Quality assurance processes have indicated that the local Self-Neglect guidance is supporting identification and practice around high-risk cases.
- The multi-agency response to the Domestic Abuse in Older Adults report has been robust, collaborative and impactful. All recommendations have been addressed, with changes embedded into practice, policy and training.
- Safeguarding Adults Boards have a statutory duty under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 to undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) into cases where individuals with care and support needs have been seriously harmed or died, and abuse or neglect is suspected. During 2025-2026, the LRSAB received five new referrals for consideration of SAR. One case met the criteria for a SAR, and a review has been commenced.

Proposals/Options

11. The Committee is asked to consider the draft Annual Report for the LRSAB appended to this report and to make any comments. These comments will be considered and addressed prior to the final report being published, if required.

Consultation

12. 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 2026 on the LRSAB website – <https://lrsb.org.uk/sab-annual-reports-and-business>.
13. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.

Resource Implications

14. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report covering April 2025 to March 2026.
15. The LRSAB operates with a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
16. SAB statutory partners have agreed to share the operating costs of the SAB for Leicestershire and Rutland. Costs are shared between the Local Authorities, Police and Integrated Care Board.
17. As part of this agreement, the County Council contributed £46,375 to the SAB in 2025-2026. This is 30% of the total funding for the SAB (£155,825). This matches the contribution from 2024-2025.
18. Expenditure has increased this year by £23,042. Staffing costs increased due to the agreed Local Government pay award (as the staff are hosted by the Local Authority). Expenditure on Safeguarding Adults Reviews increased due to the number of reviews progressing throughout the year. Costs have risen and the Safeguarding Adults Board spent more than it received from partners' contributions. The shortfall was made up from reserves. Despite budget constraints, the Board has still achieved an increased training programme linked to the previous Mental Capacity Act business priority and launched new safeguarding adults' resources.

19. As of 1 April 2026, the SAB's reserve funds stand at £103,315. These are carried forward. The 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.
20. The County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office that supports the SAB and the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Timetable for Decisions

21. This report seeks comments from this Committee prior to presenting the report to Cabinet on 8 September 2026.
22. Subject to consideration by the Cabinet, the Annual Report will be published by the end of September 2026 and presented at the meeting of Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board (to highlight safeguarding matters relevant to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and support effective partnership working).

Background papers

23. Report to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 September 2025: [Draft Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024-2025](#)
[Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' Strategic Plan 2025-2031, including the Business Plan 2025-2027](#)

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

24. None.

Equality Implications

25. 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. One of the Business Plan priorities for 2025-2027 is Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The Annual Report includes a summary analysis of the characteristics of the subjects of Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

Human Rights Implications

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

Crime and Disorder Implications

27. 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 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

28. 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.

Appendices

Draft Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2025-2026

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