

# Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2025-2026

### **A Message from the Independent Chair**



It is once again a privilege to introduce the Annual Report for Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (L&R SAB) for 2025/2026.

The Report highlights the work that the Board has been engaged with over the year. I am grateful to all partners for their ongoing contribution to the Board. The work of the SAB is delivered through several subgroups chaired by partners.

The Report provides information about how partners have continued to provide care and support to people and respond to the changing safeguarding needs and risks that occur alongside the ever-changing demands and pressures upon their organisations, which is

evidenced in the data and information provided.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Timeliness and Proportionality, and Impact of Learning are the areas of priority for 2025-2027. In year one, you will see the work undertaken which has contributed to these priorities.

Continued development was supported by the multi-agency audits – Timeliness of response to Safeguarding and Self-Neglect. The audits have highlighted the challenges confronted by those caring for people with dementia and wider work outside the SAB to meet the changing needs for people living with dementia which we are aware is increasing nationally.

It is important we continue to learn from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and work has continued on learning identified by SARs completed in previous years.

Actively hearing the voice of those involved in safeguarding and implementing effective learning from this is also critical to the Board's assurance function and will be considered as an area of focus of future work.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board Manager, Gary Watts, and the Team for efficiently and effectively managing the business of the Board over the last year.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the staff and managers across all statutory, voluntary and community partners who have been committed to working together to keep people safe in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Seona Douglas – Independent Chair, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board

## Local Context

The sources of information for this section are the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs), which analyse the health needs of populations.<sup>1</sup>

### Leicestershire

Leicestershire, not including Leicester City, is made up of seven District council areas: Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council.

The Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2026-2029 shows that:<sup>2</sup>

- In 2024, the total resident population in Leicestershire was 745,573. 49.4% (368,446) of the population were male and 50.6% (377,127) were female.
- 56.6% (421,855) of the Leicestershire population were aged 20-64 years and 21.1% (157,349) were aged 65 years and over.
- The Leicestershire population is weighted towards older adults, particularly those aged 50-64 years. Compared to England, Leicestershire had a higher proportion of the population aged 65+ and 85+, with 21.1% in the 65+ age group and 2.7% in the 85+ age group compared to 18.7% and 2.5% in England respectively.
- Across the Leicestershire districts in 2024, Charnwood had the largest population (188,385 people), while Melton had the smallest population (54,052 people). Melton and Harborough had larger proportions of residents in the upper middle age categories. When compared to other Leicestershire districts, Melton had the largest proportion of residents in every five-year age band between 55 and 84 years.
- In 2021, the majority (87.5%) of the resident population of Leicestershire was of white ethnicity.<sup>3</sup> The figure for the East Midlands was 85.7% and the figure for England was 81.0%. Those residents from an Asian ethnic background constituted 8.2% of the population; those residents from a mixed ethnic background constituted 2.2% of the population; and those from a black ethnic background constituted 1.1% of the population.
- There are differences between age groups. A smaller proportion of people in the age groups under 50 years old in Leicestershire identified as white compared to those in the age groups over 50 years old. This is evident when looking at the 25-34 and 65+ age groups.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-and-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategies-explained>.

<sup>2</sup> Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2026-29 – accessible via <https://www.lsr-online.org/leicestershire-2026-2029-jsna>. The JSNA data is taken from the Demography Dashboard, first created by Leicestershire County Council Business Intelligence Service in December 2025 and updated in June 2026.

<sup>3</sup> This is the most recent data available on the Leicestershire JSNA.

| Ethnicity                                                         | % of people in 25-34 age range in Leicestershire | % of people in 65+ age range in Leicestershire |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnicity                     | 10.1%                                            | 4.0%                                           |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African ethnicity | 1.1%                                             | 0.3%                                           |
| Mixed or Multiple ethnicity                                       | 2.4%                                             | 0.2%                                           |
| White ethnicity                                                   | 85.0%                                            | 95.0%                                          |
| Other ethnicity                                                   | 1.3%                                             | 0.5%                                           |

### Rutland

The Rutland Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2026-2029 shows that:<sup>4</sup>

- In 2024, the resident population estimate for Rutland was 41,443. 51.2% (21,237) of the population were male and 48.8% (20,206) were female.
- 52.0% of the population were aged 20-64 years and 26.4% (10,949) were aged 65 years and over.
- The Rutland population is weighted towards older adults, particularly those aged 50+ years. Compared to England, Rutland had a higher proportion of the population aged 65+ and 85+, with 26.4% in the 65+ aged group and 3.9% in the 85+ age group compared to 18.7% and 2.5% in England respectively.
- In 2021, the majority (94.8%) of the resident population of Rutland was of white ethnicity. A larger proportion of the population were of white ethnicity in Rutland than in the East Midlands (85.7%) and England (81.0%). Those residents from a mixed ethnic background constituted 1.8% of the population; those from an Asian ethnic background constituted 1.5% of the population; and those from a black ethnic background constituted 1.3% of the population.
- There are differences between age groups. A smaller proportion of people in the age groups under 50 years old in Rutland identified as white compared to those in age groups over 50 years old. This is evident when looking at the 25-34 and 65+ age groups.

<sup>4</sup> Rutland Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2026-29 – accessible via <https://www.lsr-online.org/rutland-2026-2029-jsna>. The JSNA data is taken from the Demography Dashboard, first created by Leicestershire County Council Business Intelligence Service in December 2025 and updated in June 2026.

| Ethnicity                                                         | % of people in 25-34 age range in Rutland | % of people in 65+ age range in Rutland |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnicity                     | 1.9%                                      | 0.3%                                    |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African ethnicity | 4.0%                                      | 0.2%                                    |
| Mixed or Multiple ethnicity                                       | 2.9%                                      | 0.3%                                    |
| White ethnicity                                                   | 90.5%                                     | 99.1%                                   |
| Other ethnicity                                                   | 0.7%                                      | 0.2%                                    |

## The Safeguarding Adults Board

The [Care Act 2014](#) stipulates that each local authority must set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). The main objective of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area.

The three core duties of a Safeguarding Adults Board, outlined by the [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#), are to:

- Publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective and what the members will do to achieve this.
- Publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any safeguarding adults reviews and subsequent action.
- Conduct any safeguarding adults review in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act 2014.

The work of the Safeguarding Adults Board is informed by the six key principles which underpin all adult safeguarding work, as set out in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance:

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

## Meeting our Strategic Priorities

The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board set a joint [Strategic Plan for 2025-2031](#) with the Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board. It sets out how adults at risk of abuse or neglect across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland will be helped and protected.

The strategic priorities are:

1. Leadership and Partnership
2. Performance, Quality and Audit
3. Meeting statutory responsibilities
4. Understanding our communities
5. Prevention, including awareness raising within our diverse communities

The Safeguarding Adults Boards also set Business Plans to progress work as part of the Strategic Plan. The Business Plan considers data, feedback from organisations, learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and people's views to define specific areas of work. A two-year-plan allows time to embed the outcomes of the key deliverables and, subsequently, analyse the impact of these outcomes.

The work on these business plan priorities is embedded within the assurance, training, procedure and review work of the Safeguarding Adults Boards, outlined further in the following sections of this report.

The business plan priorities for 2025-2027 across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are:

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

Further detail on these is provided later in the report.

## Strategic Priority 1: Leadership and Partnership

The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board brings together organisations across the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland to oversee the multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults with care and support needs. The Safeguarding Adults Board:

- Sets how organisations should work together to safeguard adults with care and support needs
- Provides multi-agency training and development resources to support good safeguarding
- Tests how well organisations are working together and the difference this is making
- Reviews serious safeguarding incidents to identify improvements needed
- Uses learning and feedback to improve and develop how agencies work together to safeguard adults.

Since May 2024, as a result of ministerial guidance, Safeguarding Adults Boards also act as an active presence in system-wide governance discussions around rough sleeping. Both Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council have designated a named board member for rough sleeping.

### Governance and Structure

The local safeguarding adults' arrangements are led by the statutory safeguarding partners, namely the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB), Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council, and Independent Chair in accordance with the Care Act 2014.

The Independent Chair for Leicestershire and Rutland is jointly appointed by the Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board. The Independent Chair has a critical role to lead collaboratively, give advice, support and encouragement, but also to offer constructive challenge and hold partner agencies to account and ensure that interfaces with other strategic functions are effective, whilst also acting as a spokesperson for the Safeguarding Adults Boards.

The Board partner agencies from the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors come together to seek assurance that the persons thought to be at risk stay safe, are effectively safeguarded against abuse, neglect and discrimination, are treated with dignity and respect and enjoy a high quality of life.

The Safeguarding Adults Board members are made up of several organisations across Leicestershire and Rutland. The full membership of the partnership can be found on the Safeguarding Adults Board website: <https://lrsb.org.uk/sab-membership-list>.

The engagement of all partners, at a Board and subgroup level, is monitored to ensure full representation in working to support prevention and protection of people at risk of harm, which is at the heart of the Safeguarding Adults Board's work. Details of attendance at Board meetings across 2025-2026 and the governance of the Board and its subgroups are available at **Appendix 1**.



The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board is funded by contributions from the statutory safeguarding partners. Further information about finance and the budget is available at **Appendix 2**.

This is the statutory annual report of the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board outlining the work it has carried out during 2025-2026. For more information on how the Board works, please visit <https://lrsb.org.uk/adults>.

## **Assessments and Inspections**

### Leicestershire County Council

Between September 2024 and February 2025, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessed how Leicestershire County Council was meeting its responsibilities under part 1 of the Care Act 2014.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the CQC published their report which gave Leicestershire Adult Services a 'Requires Improvement' rating. The report highlighted that people in Leicestershire have access to a range of support options that are safe, effective and affordable and stated that improvements are needed in some areas.

Since the assessment, Leicestershire County Council have reported that the number of people waiting for an assessment has reduced, and new information, advice and guidance are now in place. In respect to adult safeguarding activity, revised practice guidance has been implemented, professional and care provider referral routes strengthened, and improvements made to data recording, all supported by the deployment of additional resources. An Assurance and Improvement Plan will drive forward the required changes and make sustainable improvements in the delivery of service across Adult Social Care, whilst improving outcomes for people and carers.

Leicestershire's full response is available via the following webpage:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/council-steps-up-improvements-for-adult-services>.

The full report is published on the CQC's website: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/care-services/local-authority-assessment-reports/leicestershire-0925>.

### Probation

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland had their Local Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) inspection, with the report published in May 2025. In addition, the East Midlands, as a region, then had an inspection and that report was published in August 2025. The East Midlands Inspection result was inadequate. Victim work overall was good. The public protection work was not strong enough. In both reports, the effect of the national context was acknowledged by the Chief Inspector, with the prioritising of national policy changes, linked to prison capacity, impacting on local delivery. An Action Plan is in place regarding both the East Midlands recommendations and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland recommendations.

## Strategic Priority 2: Performance, Quality and Audit

### Quality assurance and service improvement

The Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards use their [Quality Assurance Framework](#) to support assessment of whether local safeguarding arrangements for adults are effective and deliver the outcomes that people want.



### Performance data

The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' Performance Subgroup collects, manages and discusses performance data and intelligence relating to safeguarding adults across the partnership.

A high-level dashboard supports the Safeguarding Adults Boards understand any fluctuation in activity or outcomes, and ensures action is taken to reduce risks, or understand and consider the practice that lies under the data, to ensure partners meet their legal duties and to seek assurance about partnership working and impact. The core dashboard stays consistent, with metrics that underpin the business plan priorities added and reviewed as priorities change.

Data is collated and discussed on a quarterly basis to identify performance challenges and potential areas of good practice so that, where necessary, action can be taken to learn from or to improve safeguarding experience and to identify data approaches.

Examples of issues explored in 2025-2026 include:

- A focus on proportionality, with additional monitoring of data relating to ethnicity. This is in support of the Boards' strategic priority across a two-year period. Work is in progress to further explore three specific equity areas through the lens of safeguarding: Asian people (under-representation in data), Transgender people (currently not visible in data), Autistic people (linked to other reports such as Learning from Lives and Deaths, people with a Learning Disability and Autistic People (LeDeR), identifying a heightened risk of harm).

- Oversight of self-neglect activity, following changes to local procedures, replacing the Vulnerable Adult Risk Management process with Section 42 enquiries. This has provided assurance that Section 42 enquiry rates relating to self-neglect have risen in all Local Authority areas in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- Alignment of local timescales for aspects of the safeguarding pathway with regional work, to enable confident reporting against a consistent timeliness standard.

## Safeguarding Data

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

### Alerts and Enquiries

|                                          | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total number of concerns (alerts) raised | 1,732     | 2,908     | 4,337     |
| Total number of enquiries                | 796       | 1,049     | 1,531     |
| Conversion rate of concerns to enquiries | 46%       | 36%       | 35%       |

### Enquiries by Age\*

|       | 2024/2025   | 2025/2026   |
|-------|-------------|-------------|
| 18-64 | 340 (36.1%) | 470 (35.3%) |
| 65+   | 602 (63.9%) | 861 (64.7%) |

\*The numbers do not equal total enquiries, as there can be more than one enquiry in the year per person. This is a count of people.

## Concerns (Alerts) and Enquiries by Ethnicity

|                        | Population<br>(2021 Census) | Alerts    |           | Enquiries |           |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                        |                             | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
| White                  | 87.5%                       | 90.1%     | 89.7%     | 91.8%     | 90.4%     |
| Asian                  | 8.2%                        | 2.9%      | 2.9%      | 2.9%      | 3.5%      |
| Black                  | 1.1%                        | 0.9%      | 1.0%      | 1.0%      | 1.1%      |
| Mixed                  | 2.2%                        | 0.4%      | 0.7%      | 0.6%      | 0.7%      |
| Any other ethnic group | 1.0%                        | 0.5%      | 0.6%      | 0.5%      | 0.3%      |
| Not known              | -                           | 5.3%      | 5.2%      | 3.2%      | 4.1%      |

**Concluded Enquiries by Types of Abuse, as defined by the Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance\***

|                              | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Physical Abuse               | 28%       | 31%       | 30%       |
| Domestic Abuse               | 11%       | 8%        | 11%       |
| Sexual Abuse                 | 6%        | 8%        | 6%        |
| Psychological Abuse          | 25%       | 22%       | 20%       |
| Financial or Material Abuse  | 22%       | 22%       | 21%       |
| Modern Slavery               | <1%       | <1%       | <1%       |
| Discriminatory Abuse         | <1%       | <1%       | <1%       |
| Organisational Abuse         | 5%        | 5%        | 4%        |
| Neglect and Acts of Omission | 35%       | 39%       | 41%       |
| Self-Neglect                 | 2%        | 5%        | 7%        |

\*% will not add up to 100% as more than one category may apply

**Top 5 locations that abuse took place in 2025-2026**

|                         | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Own home                | 44.9%     | 48.3%     |
| Care home – residential | 36.3%     | 30.7%     |
| Other                   | 11.9%     | 12.6%     |

|                                              |      |      |
|----------------------------------------------|------|------|
| Care home – nursing                          | 6.1% | 4.6% |
| In the community<br>(incl community service) | 4.0% | 2.4% |
| Hospital (all types)                         | 3.9% | 1.4% |

### Making Safeguarding Personal

|                                                                     | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| % of incidents risk removed                                         | 30%       | 30%       | 33%       |
| % of incidents risk reduced                                         | 67%       | 66%       | 63%       |
| % of incidents risk remained                                        | 3%        | 5%        | 5%        |
| % of Making Safeguarding Personal outcomes achieved fully or partly | 95%       | 95%       | 96%       |

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.

In terms of Making Safeguarding Personal, the percentage of people in the last four quarters who were asked for their desired outcomes and had these desired outcomes fully or partially met was 95.8%. This has remained consistently high over the years and was a slight improvement on the 94.8% in the year before.

*“Thank you for the professionalism and the hard work that you put in to getting my Dad up to four visits a day from three. It has helped so much to take away some of the worry and stress.”*

*“Communication with the worker has been good throughout, if I was worried or had a question, she’d go & find out for me which was reassuring. I wish all places/departments had a person like this working for them.”*

*“My wife had a visit from the Occupational Therapist. She made several visits and arranged for a bed and other aids. We were mightily impressed with her, extremely professional with a strong knowledge of what was needed, you can be proud of her she is a gem.”*

Feedback from people who use Leicestershire services

## Rutland

### Alerts and Enquiries

|                                          | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total number of concerns (alerts) raised | 458       | 487       | 674       |
| Total number of enquiries                | 51        | 79        | 101       |
| Conversion rate of concerns to enquiries | 11%       | 16%       | 15%       |

### Enquiries by Age\*

|       | 2024/2025   | 2025/2026   |
|-------|-------------|-------------|
| 18-64 | 15 (24.59%) | 20 (28.99%) |
| 65+   | 46 (75.41%) | 49 (71.01%) |

\*The numbers do not equal total enquiries, as there can be more than one enquiry in the year per person. This is a count of people.

### Concerns (Alerts) and Enquiries by Ethnicity

|                        | Population | Alerts    |           | Enquiries |           |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                        |            | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
| White                  | 95.55%     | 84%       | 87%       | 90%       | 88%       |
| Asian                  | 1.37%      | <1%       | <1%       | 0%        | 0%        |
| Black                  | 1.34%      | <1%       | <1%       | 0%        | 0%        |
| Mixed                  | 1.28%      | <1%       | <1%       | 0%        | 0%        |
| Any other ethnic group | 0.46%      | <1%       | <1%       | 2%        | 1%        |

|           |   |     |     |    |     |
|-----------|---|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Not known | - | 14% | 12% | 8% | 10% |
|-----------|---|-----|-----|----|-----|

### Concluded Enquiries by Types of Abuse, as defined by the Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance\*

|                              | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Physical Abuse               | 14%       | 26%       | 14%       |
| Domestic Abuse               | 3%        | 21%       | 14%       |
| Sexual Abuse                 | 3%        | 0%        | 3%        |
| Psychological Abuse          | 3%        | 15%       | 14%       |
| Financial or Material Abuse  | 22%       | 21%       | 11%       |
| Modern Slavery               | 0%        | 0%        | 0         |
| Discriminatory Abuse         | 0%        | 0%        | <1%       |
| Organisational Abuse         | 3%        | 15%       | 9%        |
| Neglect and Acts of Omission | 51%       | 56%       | 34%       |
| Self-Neglect                 | 0%        | 3%        | 1%        |

\*% will not add up to 100% as more than one category may apply

### Top 5 locations that abuse took place in 2025-2026

|                         | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Own home                | 44.9%     | 36.3%     |
| Care home – residential | 36.3%     | 42.9%     |
| Care home – nursing     | 6.1%      | 12.1%     |
| In the community        | 4.0%      | 2.2%      |
| Hospital (all types)    | 3.9%      | 1.1%      |

### Making Safeguarding Personal

|                                                                     | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| % of incidents risk removed                                         | 21%       | 74%       | 33%       |
| % of incidents risk reduced                                         | 79%       | 15%       | 66%       |
| % of incidents risk remained                                        | 0%        | 0%        | 1%        |
| % of Making Safeguarding Personal outcomes achieved fully or partly | 88%       | 85%       | 99%       |

The number of alerts received in Rutland has significantly increased from 487 in 2024-2025 to 674 in 2025-2026. This is likely resulting from a combination of factors, including that Rutland County Council are recording more concerns as safeguarding in response to the report by Durham University on Domestic Abuse Against Older Adults. There have been changes to how 'concerns' are recorded, removing an alternative option of 'concerns not safeguarding'. There has also been increased awareness across services through training activities.

Although the number of safeguarding concerns reported has increased, this has not led to a similar increase in formal safeguarding enquiries. This is partly because some new concerns relate to enquiries that are already underway and are recorded differently – they have multiple concerns linked to one enquiry. It also reflects an increase in concerns being raised about care providers, including residential and nursing homes, many of which are more appropriately dealt with through quality assurance, contract monitoring, or compliance processes rather than through formal safeguarding enquiries.

In Rutland, the emphasis on the preventative approach helps Rutland provide support and take action at the earliest opportunity, reducing the risk of issues becoming more serious and helping to improve the quality and safety of local care services.

The highest category of abuse remains neglect and acts of omission, primarily relating to care in residential settings. However, it should be noted that categories of abuse in concluded enquiries do not accurately reflect current trends due to delays in completion of some enquiries. Positive changes have now been made to "enquiry processes" to improve enquiry timescales and proportionality moving forward.

Rutland continues to see positive outcomes from safeguarding enquiries conducted, with risk reduced or removed in 99% of cases and Making Safeguarding Personal outcomes being achieved in 99%.

*"They were really understanding and they also gave me options and suggestions to problem solve."*



*“The worker understood me and worked alongside health to get the best outcome without a question of a doubt.”*

*“Somebody has picked it up and dealt with it rather than brushing it under the carpet meaning there has been a change in process meaning hopefully it won't happen again to anyone.”*

Feedback from people who use Rutland services

## Self-Assessment

Safeguarding Adults Assurance Framework (SAAF) self-assessments are undertaken by agencies and submitted to the Safeguarding Adults Boards. Every other year, each member of the Safeguarding Adults Boards self-assesses whether their organisation is being effective in keeping adults with care and support needs safe, via a self-audit. In the years where the SAAF is not completed, a frontline practitioner survey is completed. This work is co-ordinated by the Performance Group of the Safeguarding Adults Boards. The results and learning are reported to the Boards.

Planning began in 2025-2026 for a SAAF self-assessment audit. It will be completed in 2026-2027.

## Audits

The Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards carried out two multi-agency audit processes during 2025-2026, in June 2025 and December 2025.

The audit process brings together safeguarding leads from different agencies to give a multi-agency view on practice in safeguarding, to identify areas of good practice and areas for learning and improvement. The audits focus on themes or parts of the safeguarding process. Practitioners are invited to give a frontline perspective on cases.

Learning from audits leads to recommendations and actions that are progressed and monitored. The learning is disseminated and informs changes required at both a system and practice level.

### Threshold Decision Timeliness Audit

The first audit, completed in Quarter 1/2, focused on threshold decision timeliness. The theme was requested as part of the business plan priority on “Timeliness and Proportionality”. The Boards tasked the Audit Subgroup with analysing what is helping or hindering the ambition to make threshold decisions within five days.

A Thresholds audit was previously completed in 2023-2024. When looking at the results of this 2025-2026 audit, the group considered the impact of some of the completed recommendations identified from the earlier audit.

The findings were:

- Practitioners spoke about the challenge of trying to triage referrals effectively with the volume received and the need to work on a case-by-case basis. When there is a requirement to ask a referrer for further information, timeliness can be dependent on their availability.
- Whilst it is for the Local Authority to establish if a person has care and support needs, the system and multi-agency professionals can help Adult Social Care, by supporting and assisting the decision-making process and risk prioritisation by submitting the right information.
- In the majority of situations, it was clear that the referrer was informed of the decision. This indicated an improvement since the 2023-2024 audit.
- An issue was identified around how IT systems record working days. If the criteria refer to five working days, but the reporting system is not taking out Saturday and Sunday, the data is inaccurate.
- Further awareness raising is required around domestic abuse as a type of abuse and this being correctly identified and recorded in agencies' systems. This is a similar finding to one from the 2023-2024 audit.
- Agencies are seeing more frequent situations of domestic abuse between spouses, where one has a diagnosis of dementia.

### Actions and outcomes

The Performance Subgroup are looking at how timescales are recorded on systems, moving from five working days to seven days of receipt of an alert. This will not change the process for staff but will be a system change. They are monitoring the difference that this makes to the data submitted over the course of a year. It is predicted that it will equate to an improvement in reporting timeliness.

A learning resource was produced around what makes a good referral and best practice. This was circulated via representatives on the Audit Subgroup and was shared with the Trainers' Network.

Having further investigated the identification of domestic abuse, the Performance Subgroup has seen a 3% increase in enquiries where domestic abuse is a feature, which is significant.

Further awareness raising has been carried out in relation to the category of domestic abuse and the relationship between the people involved in the safeguarding enquiry. A presentation on "Domestic Abuse and Thresholds" was delivered at the training event, Safeguarding Matters Live, in July 2025.

The Domestic Abuse procedure on the Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures has been updated, to include a new section that highlights issues to consider when

domestic abuse and dementia are both present in a relationship. This will be supported by future work from the Learning & Development Subgroup.

### Self-Neglect Audit

The second audit, completed in Quarter 3/4, focused on self-neglect. This was requested as part of the business plan priority on “Impact of Learning”. The Audit Subgroup was tasked with considering if the “Responding to Self-Neglect (and Hoarding) Guidance”, launched in December 2024 as a replacement for the Vulnerable Adults Risk Management (VARM) process, is embedded and what difference it is making.

This audit was moved up the schedule because self-neglect is a priority in terms of practice and the Procedures Subgroup is also seeking to gain assurance and share feedback on how the guidance is working in practice.

The findings were:

- Self-neglect is being correctly identified, with audits including descriptions of self-neglect and what professionals had witnessed when working with people.
- Several people had co-existing conditions / issues, including homelessness, alcohol and substance use and previous trauma which are common features of self-neglect cases.
- In all cases, there were attempts to involve the person, seek consent and capture their voice. The challenges in engaging people who self-neglect were often highlighted but there were examples of persistent and tenacious work.
- Capacity was considered but there can be challenges around capacity and self-neglect.
- All of the audits involved men. Only one involved a person who was not White British. It was questioned if this lack of diversity in cases was solely down to random case selection or if there is a disproportionality.
- No medium-risk examples were selected. This means that the effectiveness of the new guidance for this type of risk is difficult to establish.
- There was positive feedback from practitioners about the “Responding to Self-Neglect (and Hoarding) Guidance”, with the risk sections guiding professionals in multi-agency meetings and the guidance supporting practitioners to understand what appropriate and proportionate actions should be undertaken based on assessed level of risk. In one audit, it was noted that, without the new guidance, the case might have been closed due to non-engagement.
- There were suggestions the guidance could be improved, through direction around risk recording, to ensure consideration of the Self-Neglect Guidance

is evidenced. It would be beneficial to consider more formalised recording to evidence initial rationale for risk assessment.

### **Actions and outcomes**

The Procedures Subgroup is reviewing the Self-Neglect guidance and the risk assessments available, taking into account the practitioner feedback collated from the audit process.

The Procedures Subgroup is seeking information on practice around medium-risk self-neglect cases, including if there is appropriate multi-agency involvement, as required; if the right process is being used – i.e. safeguarding referrals are not being made for medium-risk cases; how medium-risk cases are recorded; and if the existing templates in the guidance are being used.

The Performance Subgroup have been asked to consider the number of referrals being received involving individuals with protected characteristics and if this needs to be interrogated through a self-neglect lens.

### **Other assurance work**

#### Assurance Reports to the Safeguarding Adults Boards

During 2025-2026, the Safeguarding Adults Boards received reports on:

- The multi-agency response to Durham University's report on Domestic Abuse in Older Adults
- Safeguarding in Local Authority commissioned services
- The current arrangements for the instigation and oversight of deprivation of liberty (DoLS) applications within University Hospitals of Northamptonshire and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trusts.

#### Safeguarding Assurance from Prisons

Each local prison was asked to complete a safeguarding assurance report and present it to the Safeguarding Adults Boards. They provided information on identified safeguarding issues/risks and any emerging themes; partnership links with Social Care and Housing departments; the transitional arrangements in place for prisoner release (particularly for those with housing, health and care and support needs); safeguarding referrals that had been raised, the reason for the referral and the outcomes; the number of deaths in custody and actions and improvements undertaken as a result; and training provided to prison staff in relation to safeguarding, mental capacity and trauma-informed practice.

The information shared provided a good understanding of safeguarding and the issues that are addressed within the Prison Service.

Following the presentation of the written reports, the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Boards carried out prison visits. As a result, Leicestershire &

Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board are putting together a training package for local prison use.

### Safe Care at Home Review

The [Safe Care at Home Review](#) was published in June 2023. This was a joint review, led by the Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), into the protections and support for adults abused, or at risk of abuse, in their own home by people providing their care.

In light of some of the issues raised in this national review, the Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards agreed to partnership agencies assessing themselves against the eight key findings. It was felt that this would provide a local overview, identifying good practice and any challenges to address.

In 2023-2024, the agencies assessed themselves against each area and provided a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating. In 2024-2025, they updated their assessments and there were no red rated areas and an increase in green rated areas.

To address the remaining gaps in assurance, the assessments were further reviewed in 2025-2026. It was agreed that this work could be marked as complete as there are long-term plans in place to address the few remaining actions.

### Local response to Rough Sleeping

Following the 2022 [Ending Rough Sleeping for Good](#) strategy, a Joint Ministerial Letter was sent in May 2024 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and the Department of Health & Social Care to all Safeguarding Adults Boards with recommendations for how they could support individuals rough sleeping.

In 2025-2026, the Leicester Review Subgroup and Leicestershire & Rutland Case Review Group have implemented a referral mechanism, and a process is in place for considering rough sleeping/homelessness deaths against Safeguarding Adults Review criteria.

It has been established that there were no deaths of homeless people in Leicestershire or Rutland during 2025. We will continue to monitor this.

## Strategic Priority 3: Meeting statutory responsibilities

### Safeguarding Adults Reviews

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. When these reviews are undertaken, they are focused on identifying how multi-agency safeguarding systems and practice can be improved in future.

#### Key decisions and actions taken

During 2025-2026, the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board received five new referrals for consideration of a Safeguarding Adults Review. This is in line with the four referrals received in 2024-2025. One of these referrals was previously considered as a potential Domestic Homicide Related Death Review.

Of the five new referrals considered in 2025-2026, it was agreed that:

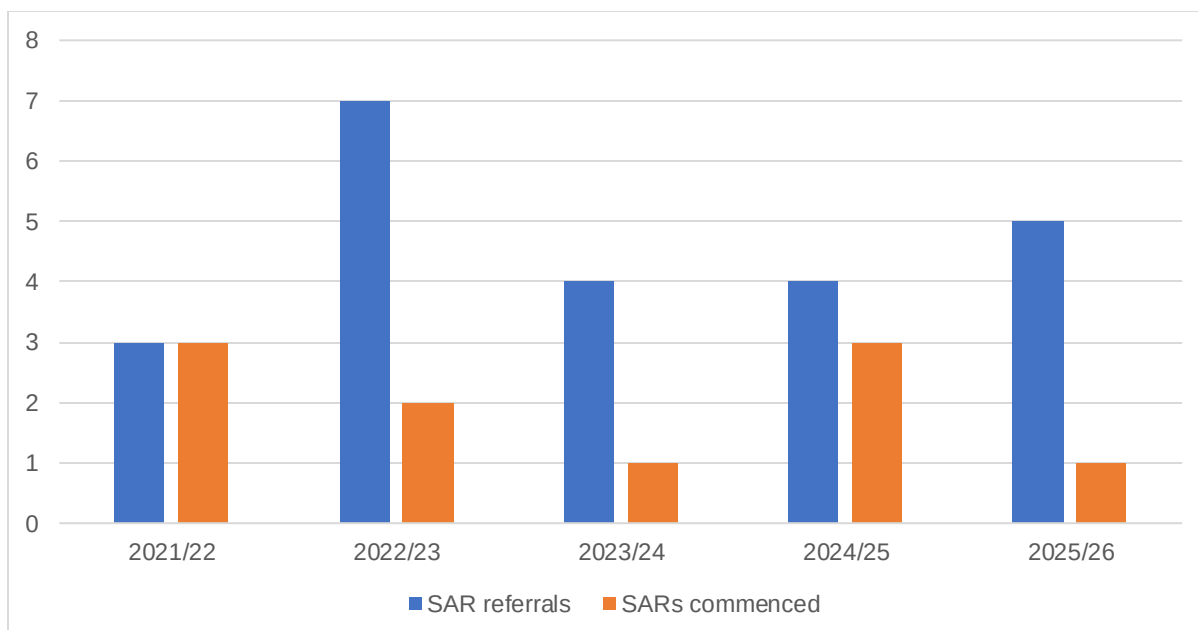
- One of these met the criteria for a Safeguarding Adults Review and a review has been commenced
- Four cases did not meet the criteria for a Safeguarding Adults Review.

The decisions were agreed by the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Where a referral does not meet the criteria for a Safeguarding Adults Review, feedback is sent to the referrer, and they are asked to consider if alternative single agency processes are required.

The chart below shows the number of referrals and Safeguarding Adults Reviews commenced each year for the past five years.<sup>5</sup> In some cases, a Safeguarding Adults Review may have been referred in one year and commenced in the next year.

<sup>5</sup> A case is classed as commenced when it has been agreed to meet Safeguarding Adults Review criteria (Section 44 of the Care Act 2014).



During 2025-2026, the Safeguarding Adults Board continued work on five Safeguarding Adults Reviews, with one review still on hold due to criminal processes.

One Safeguarding Adults Review was completed and signed off by the Safeguarding Adults Board in March 2026. It will be published on the website in the coming year.

Of the seven people considered as subjects of reviews agreed, on hold or under way during 2025-2026:

- Three of the subjects have been male and four female
- One was aged over 65 and one was aged under 25, with three in their 50s and two in their 30s
- Five of the subjects have been White British, one Asian and one of White and Black mixed heritage
- Three have been self-neglect cases and two have involved an adult with a learning disability.

The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board publishes Safeguarding Adults Review reports on its website for one year. It also adds its published reviews to the [National Safeguarding Adults Review \(SAR\) Library](#) developed by the National Network for Chairs of Adult Safeguarding Boards.

#### Actions from reviews

Action plans are in place to respond to and monitor areas of learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews. They are deemed to be completed when appropriate outputs have been achieved for all actions recorded and they have been presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board for agreement/assurance.

During 2025-2026, the Safeguarding Adults Board has completed all action plans implemented following completed/published Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

**Learning implemented from Safeguarding Adults Reviews across 2025-2026:**

- It has led to clarification of the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland position, in response to national changes, regarding pressure ulcers and safeguarding adults' protocol. There has been a change to the local procedure and Thresholds guidance, as a result.
- It has informed a case scenario included in the [Building Confidence in Practice Resource on Information Sharing to Safeguard Children and Adults](#), published in February 2026.
- It is informing the review and evaluation by the Procedures Subgroup of the "Responding to Self-Neglect (including Hoarding) Guidance", which has been in place since 1 December 2024.
- It has influenced the content of the mental capacity training courses offered across the year by the Safeguarding Adults Boards. Bespoke courses on "Self-Neglect and MCA" and "Advanced MCA" were delivered in 2025, which covered assessing a person's capacity when affected by substance and alcohol misuse.

Dissemination of learning

The Safeguarding Adults Board shares key messages from Safeguarding Adults Reviews through its quarterly [Safeguarding Matters newsletter](#) and biannual [Safeguarding Matters Live events](#), as well as the regular Safeguarding Matters Digest emails. Safeguarding Matters has a wide reach, with nearly 3500 visits to the newsletter's webpage during 2025-2026. To support workers to put learning from reviews into practice, the Board continues to use [7-Minute Briefings](#). These concise documents are focused on encouraging reflection and development within teams and by individuals to develop practice in response to the learning.

How we are measuring impact

An assurance report is provided to the Safeguarding Adults Board at the point that all the actions from a Safeguarding Adults Review's recommendations have been successfully completed. In some circumstances, this may be one or two years after the publication of the overview report. The purpose is to reflect on the learning from each review; consider what assurance can be sought to identify whether or not change has been embedded in practice; and whether the lessons from the review have not only been identified but have also been learnt. It is also a way to find out whether the actions taken had the required impact.

In 2025-2026, an assurance report was delivered to the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board regarding the four Safeguarding Adults Reviews, commissioned between 2020 and 2022, where the subject was an adult with a learning disability. These reviews are available on the [National Safeguarding Adults Review \(SAR\) Library](#).



A key outcome of the reviews was that strong links have been established with groups whose focus is learning disabilities, such as the Learning Disability and Autism Collaborative and the Leicestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board. The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office Manager now sits on this Board.

Assurance was provided that there is a focused and sustained approach to working with adults with learning disabilities locally and the work described should lead to timelier and better outcomes for them. A lot of this work is based on co-production.

Since these Safeguarding Adults Review cases were referred to the Safeguarding Adults Board, data indicates that there has been a significant decrease in the number of referrals about adults with a learning disability coming into the Case Review Group, but this cohort of adults still leads to a number of referrals.

### Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board works with Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board to maintain up-to-date multi-agency adult safeguarding policies and procedures locally. These policies and procedures are hosted on a dedicated website called the MAPP (Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures): <https://www.lradultsafeguarding.co.uk/>.

Throughout 2025-2026, these policies and procedures continued to be reviewed and updated in line with learning from reviews, audits, and best practice.

Updates were made to the following procedures:

- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Domestic Abuse
- Mental Capacity
- Safeguarding Adults Reviews
- Record Keeping
- Pressure Ulcers: Safeguarding Adults Protocol
- Managing Allegations against People in Positions of Trust (PiPoT)
- Thresholds
- Out of Area Safeguarding Adults Arrangements
- Guidance for the Oversight Process of Section 42 Enquiries in NHS Settings

New procedures have been published on:

- Stalking
- Working with Adults with Impaired Executive Function
- Working with Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Health and Care Passports

A full list of new chapters and amendments made can be found on the [Amendments](#) page of the [Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures](#).

Individuals can receive alerts regarding procedure updates by [registering with the MAPP](#). If they have any comments or feedback on the procedures, they can use the [contact form](#).

## Learning, Development and Training

The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board's training co-ordination and delivery function is shared with the Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board to support consistent and effective partnership working. The work of the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Learning & Development Subgroup is underpinned by the [Learning and Development Training Strategy 2024-2026](#).

Whilst it is the responsibility of partner organisations to ensure their own staff are appropriately trained in matters of adult safeguarding, it is the responsibility of the Learning and Development Subgroup to receive assurance from organisations that they know what levels of training are expected for their staff, have audited their needs, and that they are delivering the appropriate training in the areas of understanding abuse, raising awareness, responding effectively and prevention.

The Learning & Development Subgroup continues to support up-to-date training in single agencies, including all key partners and many care providers, by providing a [Competency Framework](#) to support individuals and organisations to undertake their safeguarding roles and responsibilities in a confident and competent manner. They disseminate learning from reviews and updates to procedure and legislation.

The Learning and Development Subgroup is also responsible for promoting multi-agency training within the partnership, highlighting learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and considering any specialist multi-agency training that may be required across the partnership relating to the Boards' priorities.

A blended approach to learning is adopted, incorporating video resources and resource packs alongside online training sessions. This allows for a wide reach.

During 2025-2026, the Learning & Development Subgroup:

- Continued its programme of Mental Capacity Act training, initiated in 2024-2025, with Edge Training providing four types of courses, including two bespoke courses. In 2025-2026, they delivered:
  - Four sessions of "Mental Capacity Act Awareness"
  - Four sessions of "Mental Capacity Act in Practice"
  - Two sessions of "Self-Neglect and the Mental Capacity Act"
  - Four sessions of "Advanced Mental Capacity Act: Assessing Capacity & Best Interests"
- Delivered a multi-agency system workshop in February 2026 for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland partners on how to work together to understand and implement the Mental Capacity Act. Mental capacity learning themes from

Safeguarding Adults Reviews were used to reflect with partners on what is working well and what needs to be developed. The aim was to enable individual agencies to reflect on their organisational learning needs.

- Sought assurance, in the form of a training needs assessment, regarding Mental Capacity Act training undertaken by and within individual partner organisations, including the level of staff attendance/participation.
- Received assurance from commissioners across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland that good work is continuing to support providers around the Mental Capacity Act and providers can access support. The Provider Forums, supported by the Safeguarding Adults Boards in 2024-2025, ceased in 2025-2026.
- Published, in September 2025, two new “Essential Safeguarding Adults” resources:
  - [Information Booklet](#) – which provides a basic overview of both adult and child safeguarding
  - [Resources & Signposting Booklet](#) – which provides hyperlinks to training courses and training resources available both locally and nationally.
- Promoted the ongoing refresh of the Safeguarding Adults Competency Framework, with the updated version being co-produced with local practitioners. The Framework supports best practice in safeguarding adults at risk of harm, abuse or neglect and can be used by everyone who works or volunteers with adults or who is responsible for improving their outcomes. The process for reviewing the Competency Framework has involved a staff consultation, which was publicised in Safeguarding Matters.
- Created a new advocacy resource, in response to learning from local audits, to support understanding of when and how to seek Care Act advocacy services for adults with needs for care and support. The [Independent Care Act Advocacy: Practitioner Briefing video](#) was published on the YouTube Channel in March 2026. It presents a training session for frontline practitioners, covering Independent Care Act advocacy and delivered by POHWER, which is an independent organisation and charity that provides all types of statutory advocacy on behalf of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.
- Supported the new [Building Confidence in Practice Resource on Information Sharing to Safeguard Children and Adults](#), published in February 2026.

### Safeguarding Adults Week

The Learning & Development Subgroup, alongside the Engagement & Communications Subgroup, oversee the Safeguarding Adults Boards’ promotion of National Safeguarding Adults Week.

In 2025, this took place between 17 and 23 November. The focus was on “Prevention: act before abuse”.

The Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards hosted a number of free online 15-minute spotlight briefings for practitioners to start their day. The topics covered included:

- Professional curiosity, by Leicestershire County Council Learning & Development Team
- Hoarding, arson threat, when to make a referral to the fire service for a home safety check and collaborative working, by Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS)
- The local offer of support for scams, fraud and doorstep crime, by the Leicestershire County Council Trading Standards Team
- Older adults and domestic abuse, by Leicester City Council and Age UK
- Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law), by Leicestershire Police.

A Safeguarding Adults resource pack was published online and an article on good practice examples and case studies, written locally, was also published in the East Midlands Safeguarding Adults Board (EMSAB) Network newsletter.

#### **Outcomes and Impact**

- Over 300 members of staff joined events over the week.
- For those unable to attend, the videos of the briefing sessions are available on the [YouTube channel](#).
- During National Safeguarding Adults Week, there was an increase in visits to the Safeguarding Adults Board websites across Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland and 100 visitors to the YouTube channel with nearly three hours watch time between them.

#### **Trainers' Network**

The Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' Trainers' Network is a forum that brings together individuals that deliver any learning and development activities relating to safeguarding adults. Individuals that complete the Train the Trainer course delivered by the Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG) are invited to join the Network. It enables trainers to remain up to date with training materials, processes and procedures and provides networking and best practice sharing opportunities.

During 2025-2026, the Trainers' Network ran two events, one online and one in person. Topics covered included social prescribing, self-neglect and hoarding guidance, scams, making good safeguarding adult referrals and the escalation process.

*"Found the updates really useful to keep in touch with what is happening locally."*

*"The information shared, group discussions and peer networking."*

Feedback from attendees of the Trainers' Network in response to the question, "What did you like most about the event?"

## Resources

The Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards provide numerous learning and development resources, and these are available and promoted via the [Safeguarding Matters newsletter](#), [Safeguarding Matters Live events](#), Safeguarding Matters Digest emails and [YouTube Channel](#). Further information is provided in **Appendix 3**.

## Training Impact

The 14 Mental Capacity training events held in 2025-2026 were delivered to 246 people and were positively received.

*"The training really helped to refresh my knowledge of MCA. The slides will support my role when I visit providers."*

*"I will use the knowledge from today to support staff with undertaking MCA. Feel better equipped in guiding staff in how to navigate MCA and what to look for."*

*"Fantastic day and I have learnt so much that will be utilised daily."*

*"Thank you so much for putting this training on, it has been the best MCA session I have ever attended and the practicality and useability of the material will be incredibly beneficial. I would hope that these sessions could be offered again, I would hope for a higher attendance from multi agency colleagues."*

Feedback from attendees of Mental Capacity Act training

During 2025-2026, more than 90 people requested they be added to the Safeguarding Matters distribution list, with nearly 900 people now signed up.

Over the two Safeguarding Matters Live events, one in July and one in December, over 640 practitioners attended.

*"Training was good and informative, and a refresher to what organisations are available when dealing with safeguarding. Also resources available to take back to team."*

*"Absolutely fantastic, very impactful and will share with colleagues."*

*"Fantastic coverage from all speakers. I will be reviewing our safeguarding procedures and also discussing this within our team meetings, linking in resources and signposting staff to watch this Safeguarding Matters recording."*

*"Learned about different agencies and how they operate and how to make contact with them."*

Feedback from attendees of Safeguarding Matters Live

The [Safeguarding Basic Awareness PowerPoint](#), aimed at people who may work in a voluntary capacity or staff requiring a basic induction to children's and adults' safeguarding, has been visited over 8000 times this year on the Leicestershire & Rutland website.

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## Strategic Priority 4: Understanding our communities

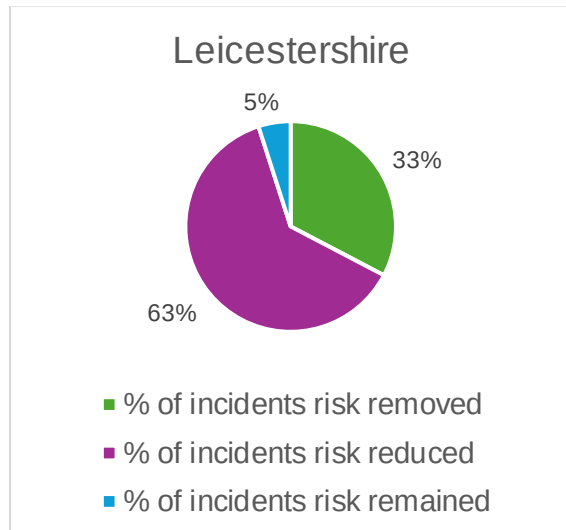
### Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a national requirement, which puts the individual subject to an adult safeguarding enquiry at the centre of the decision-making process and supports their involvement. Members of the Safeguarding Adults Board have embedded the process into their safeguarding activity, enabling adults to communicate what outcomes they want to achieve from the safeguarding process, along with tools to support measurement. Making Safeguarding Personal data is collated on a quarterly basis and monitored.

Looking at the outcomes achieved in 2025-2026:

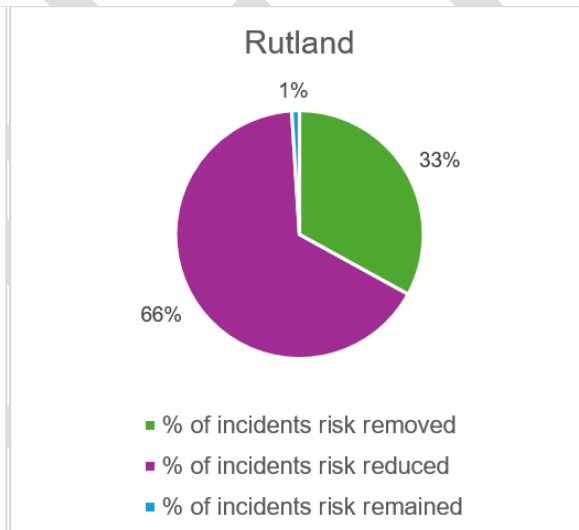
**96%**

% of Making Safeguarding Personal outcomes achieved fully or partly in Leicestershire



**99%**

% of Making Safeguarding Personal outcomes achieved fully or partly in Rutland



### Local Safeguarding Campaigns

The Engagement & Communications Subgroup supported four “See Something Say Something” campaigns in 2025-2026. These campaigns are two weeks long. The group provides assets and suggested messages to partners and stakeholders so that they can support the campaign from their social media platforms.





This year the subgroup agreed that each campaign would focus on a specific theme:

- 9-20 June 2025, Self-neglect (including hoarding)
- 8-19 September 2025, Exploitation/cuckooing, also known as home takeover
- 17-28 November 2025, Domestic abuse
- 23 February- 6 March 2026, Neglect

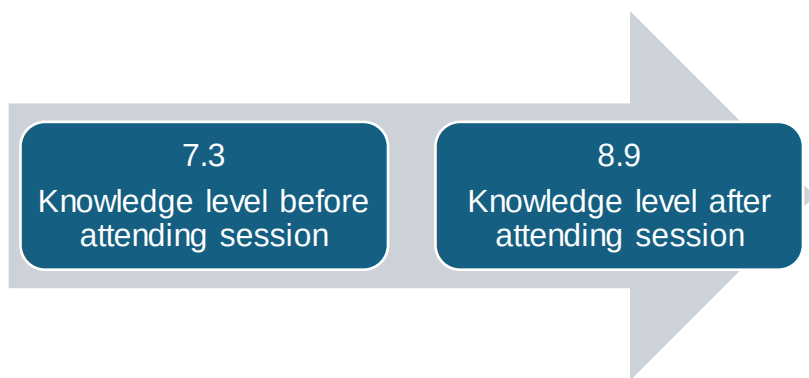
### Information Sessions

“What is Adult Safeguarding?” online information sessions were regularly delivered to support those who work in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland, including to community members and groups. They took place in January, March, May, July, September, and November 2025 (with the November session being part of National Safeguarding Adults Week), and January 2026. The events held in 2025 reached a total of 89 delegates with positive feedback being received.



On average, delegates' self-assessment of their knowledge level of adult safeguarding before attending the session and after attending the session (with 1 being very weak and 10 being very strong) increased by 1.6 points from an average of 7.3 before to an average of 8.9 afterwards.





*"I will feedback learning to colleagues and I will refresh on the 10 types of abuse."*

*"Thank you for a most informative presentation."*

Responses from attendees of the "What is Adult Safeguarding?" information session about how attending the session will help them going forward

### Resources

In 2025-2026, the Engagement & Communications Subgroup also worked on a new Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland factsheet explaining the adult safeguarding process. This was co-produced with Leicestershire's Engagement Panel, Leicester's Making it Real group, and Rutland's Expert by Experience Participation Group. The factsheet will be used for engagement events, will be included in future local awareness campaigns and will be sent out to partners, local community, voluntary groups and religious groups so they can order copies for their use.

In terms of accessibility, Safeguarding Adults Board leaflets can be made available in other languages. The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Partnerships website has a translation button on every webpage, allowing the user to select an appropriate language for their needs.

Leicestershire Adult Services provide a series of information videos to help people needing to access adult social care services. To support the accessibility of these videos, they worked with Sign Solutions to add British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation into them. The videos cover topics such as [Care and support assessment](#), [Coming out of hospital](#), [Eligibility for care and support](#), [Getting help to stay at home](#), and [What is a Carer's Assessment](#).

Three years ago, the Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards jointly produced the "See something, Say something" animations. The videos shine a spotlight on exploitation and cuckooing, neglect and domestic abuse and are available on the YouTube Channel. Since that time, 11 other Safeguarding Adults Boards have taken up the offer to localise and rebadge these animations.

### Easy Read Resources

The Engagement & Communications Subgroup has produced an [Easy Read resource on safeguarding adults](#). It is available on both the [Leaflets](#) and [Easy Read](#)

webpages of the Leicestershire & Rutland website. The latter page received over 660 hits during 2025-2026.

Further easy read information is available via the Easy Read page on the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures – <https://www.llradultsafeguarding.co.uk/resources/easy-reads/>.

For the first time in 2025-2026, the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board produced an [Easy Read version of the Annual Report for 2024-2025](#).

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## Strategic Priority 5: Prevention, including awareness raising within our diverse communities

### Business Plan Priorities

The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board worked with the Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board to identify shared priorities for the [Joint Business Plan 2025-27](#). The two-year-plan allows time to embed the outcomes of the key deliverables and, subsequently, analyse the impact of these outcomes. The business priorities were identified as a result of local and national learning.

The work on these business priorities was embedded within the assurance, training, procedure and review work of the Boards outlined further in the previous sections of this report.

Updates on this joint business plan were provided throughout the business year to the Boards. Progress on the following priorities was monitored throughout the year and assurance secured that actions were making a positive difference to the lived experience of local adults with care and support needs.

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

#### What we did in 2025-2026:

- Continued to support the work of the Transitional Safeguarding Task & Finish Group. The group is jointly owned by the Safeguarding Children Partnerships and the Safeguarding Adults Boards. It is co-chaired by children's and adults' representatives. Specifically, the group's purpose is to develop a multi-agency Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland transitional safeguarding policy or practice guidance. It is acknowledged that Transitional Safeguarding is not simply transition planning for people who are moving from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care services.<sup>6</sup>
- Undertook "Gaining Meaningful Feedback" work to gather information about how other Safeguarding Adults Boards in the region and nationally have enabled partners to gain meaningful feedback from adults and carers who have experienced safeguarding interventions. Information has also been collated about how local organisations obtain meaningful feedback from people who use their services.
- Defined work on analysing safeguarding adults' data and disproportionality, to ensure that the priority has a specific focus that is deliverable. Analysis to understand which communities might require targeted work to support safeguarding engagement is in progress. Two meetings with Voluntary Action Leicester (Healthwatch) have taken place to gather soft intelligence about which communities (in the widest sense) agencies might be less engaged with. A proposal was discussed at the Performance Subgroup in December 2025, based on data disparities and intelligence from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.

<sup>6</sup> See Local Government Association transitional safeguarding resources for more information about transitional safeguarding: [Transitional safeguarding resources | Local Government Association](#).

- Continued to develop and promote – in person, online and via social media – adult safeguarding messages and information across the locality taking into account equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Implemented, within the Leicester Review Subgroup and Leicestershire & Rutland Case Review Group, a referral mechanism and process for considering rough sleeping / homelessness deaths against Safeguarding Adults Review criteria and for learning purposes.

### **Outcomes and Impact**

- Transitional safeguarding was an area identified in 2024-2025 as demonstrating limited progress. As a result, regular progress meetings have been held, throughout 2025-2026, with the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Boards and the Independent Scrutineer for the Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

The Task & Finish Group has completed a local multi-agency mapping exercise and the report from this exercise has established that the position has not changed locally, with regard to the specific cohort of young adults/people that do not fit into existing pathways when the transition from children to adults' services occurs.

Group members have started to produce and present real-life case examples from their service which describe the journey from children to adults' services for young people, as well as practitioner experiences. A case audited for the Safeguarding Adults Boards' self-neglect audit was also fed into this process, as it was identified it highlighted key themes around transitional safeguarding.

This analysis and lived experience will inform the production of the policy / practice guidance.

- Through the Gaining Meaningful Feedback work, the group has been able to explore what works well, as well as what can go wrong. "What is Adult Safeguarding?" online sessions for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland communities continued to take place across 2025-2026.

### **Moving forwards**

- The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland transitional safeguarding policy or practice guidance is expected to be completed by November 2026.

### **Timeliness and Proportionality**

#### **What we did in 2025-2026:**

- 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. Work on

timeliness is in progress via the East Midlands Safeguarding Community of Practice.

- Progressed work to review the Safeguarding Adults Competency Framework, first established in 2019. The Framework is for use by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland adults' workforce to support individuals and organisations to undertake their safeguarding roles and responsibilities in a confident and competent manner. It outlines the minimum expected level of safeguarding competence that people need to have in order to work or volunteer with adults with care and support needs.
- Completed a Threshold Decision Timeliness audit in Quarter 1/2 of 2025-2026. Further information on the findings of the audit is available in the "Strategic Priority 2: Performance, Quality and Audit" section of the Annual Report.
- Started work to address how to improve the timeliness of the dissemination of learning from reviews using effective methodologies (i.e. based on the children's rapid review model).

### **Outcomes and Impact**

- A practitioner consultation process was initiated to support the revision of the Competency Framework, so the updated version can be co-produced with staff. Three surveys were designed to help consider what changes need to be made, what works well and what could be improved with the Framework. 70 consultation responses have been received so far.
- Findings from the Threshold Decision Timeliness audit have led to changes being implemented by the Performance Subgroup around data collection. Additionally, learning has been disseminated on making a good referral and recognising domestic abuse as a type of abuse. More information is available in the "Strategic Priority 2: Performance, Quality and Audit" section of the Annual Report.

### **Moving forwards**

- The updated Competency Framework will be published in 2026-2027.
- Via the East Midlands Safeguarding Community of Practice work, the intention is to create a Safeguarding Pathway Timeline, setting out the actions required and timescales for these within a safeguarding alert / enquiry process. Each council will then ensure internal practice changes and data collection systems are in place to monitor safeguarding actions against the performance timelines. This may impact on metrics such as 'Threshold Decision' and 'Open Enquiries'.
- The Audit Subgroup will complete a Safety Plans audit in 2026-2027, following up on the one completed in 2024-2025 on this theme. This will seek assurance that recommendations from the previous audit have been embedded.

- The Leicester Review Subgroup and Leicestershire & Rutland Case Review Group will work in collaboration to enhance Safeguarding Adults Review processes and methodologies to improve the timeliness of learning dissemination.

### Impact of learning

#### What we did in 2025-2026:

- Completed a Self-Neglect audit in Quarter 3/4 of 2025-2026 to establish if the local Self-Neglect Guidance, launched in December 2024, is embedded and what difference it is making. Further information on the findings of the audit is available in the “Strategic Priority 2: Performance, Quality and Audit” section of the Annual Report.
- Completed an assurance report regarding the impact of the four Safeguarding Adults Reviews, where the subject was an adult with a learning disability, commissioned by the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board between 2020 and 2022.
- Addressed the recommendations outlined in Durham University’s commissioned report into Domestic Abuse in Older Adults, with all partner agencies across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland working collaboratively to complete this work.

### Outcomes and Impact

- Findings from the Self-Neglect audit have indicated that the local guidance is supporting identification and practice around high-risk cases. More work needs to be carried out to seek assurance around medium-risk cases. This is being taken forward by the Procedures Subgroup. More information is available in the “Strategic Priority 2: Performance, Quality and Audit” section of the Annual Report.
- The assurance report on Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Reviews highlighted how the groups in place locally and the work happening should lead to timelier and better outcomes for adults with learning disabilities. It also noted a significant decrease in the number of referrals about this cohort of adults coming into the Case Review Group.
- 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. For example, Leicestershire Police have revised their domestic abuse toolkit to include specific guidance on older victims. Training modules across Health, Social Care and Policing sectors now include content on polyvictimisation. Workshops and reflective practice sessions were held to challenge ageist assumptions. Risk assessments are now explicitly required to be based on need and risk, not age.

**Moving forwards**

- The Audit Subgroup will complete a Mental Capacity audit in 2026-2027, following up on the one completed in 2023-2024 on this theme. This will seek assurance that the recommendations from the previous audit have been embedded and provide an understanding of the impact of the mental capacity training delivered across 2024-2026.
- The Leicestershire & Rutland Case Review Group will continue to produce assurance reports on completed Safeguarding Adults Reviews to demonstrate their impact.
- Monitoring and audit processes are in place across each organisation to ensure sustainability and improvement around domestic abuse of older adults. It is important now to ensure that continual improvement and professional development of staff is maintained within this important area of safeguarding.

## Priorities moving forwards

The two-year business planning period started in April 2025 and will run through to March 2027. Therefore, the priorities in 2026-2027 will continue to be Equality, diversity and inclusion, Timeliness and proportionality, and Impact of learning. The [Business Plan for 2025-2027](#) is available on the website.

The Safeguarding Adults Boards will continue to monitor progress and secure assurance that the actions being taken are making a positive difference to the lived experience of adults with care and support needs locally.

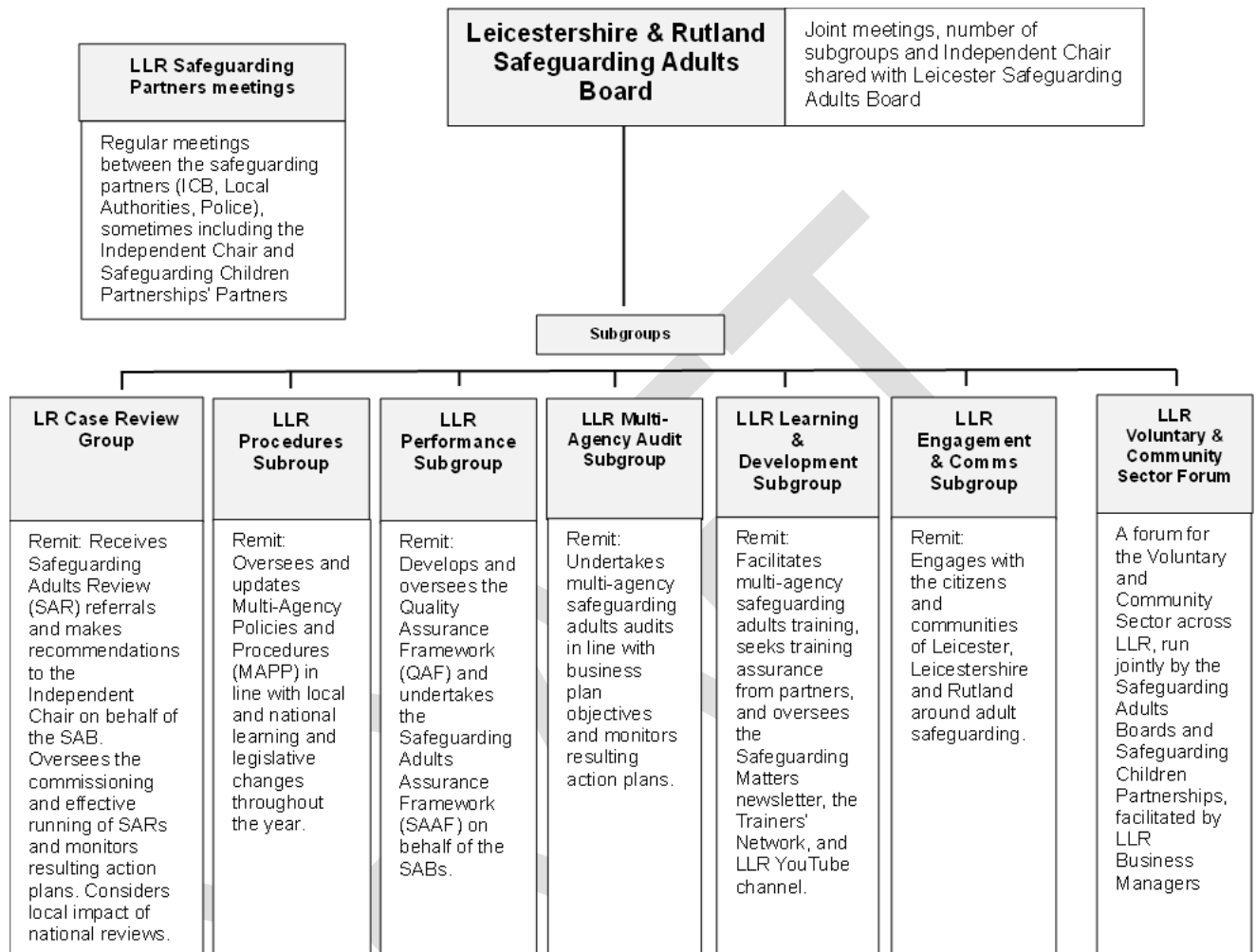
The Safeguarding Adults Board will also work to continue to meet its statutory responsibilities and continue to develop its approach to learning and improving safeguarding of adults.

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## Appendix 1 – Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board and its subgroups

The structure chart below demonstrates the governance of the Board and its subgroups.



The table below provides details of agencies that are represented on the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board and their attendance at Board meetings in 2025-2026. It may be that the Lead Officer delegated attendance to another officer.

\*Note – the Leicestershire Lead Member changed between the July and September 2025 meetings

| Agency                           | Attendance at meetings |           |                |               |              |            |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
|                                  | May 2025               | July 2025 | September 2025 | December 2025 | January 2026 | March 2026 |
| Leicestershire Adult Social Care | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | ✓             | Apologies    | ✓          |
| Rutland Adult Social Care        | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | ✓             | ✓            | ✓          |

| Agency                                                                | Attendance at meetings |           |                |               |              |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
|                                                                       | May 2025               | July 2025 | September 2025 | December 2025 | January 2026 | March 2026 |
| District and Borough Councils                                         | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | Apologies     | Apologies    | ✓          |
| Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | ✓             | ✓            | ✓          |
| Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)                            | Apologies              | ✓         | ✓              | ✓             | ✓            | ✓          |
| University Hospitals Leicester NHS Trust (UHL)                        | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | ✓             | ✓            | ✓          |
| East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)                                | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | Apologies     | ✓            | ✓          |
| Leicestershire Police                                                 | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | ✓             | ✓            | ✓          |
| HMP Prisons                                                           | Apologies              | ✓         | ✓              | Apologies     | Apologies    | ✓          |
| Probation Service LLR                                                 | ✓                      | Apologies | ✓              | ✓             | ✓            | ✓          |
| Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS)                         | ✓                      | ✓         | Apologies      | ✓             | ✓            | Apologies  |
| Department of Work and Pensions                                       | Apologies              | Apologies | ✓              | ✓             | Apologies    | ✓          |
| EMCARE                                                                | Apologies              | Apologies | Apologies      | Apologies     | Apologies    | Apologies  |
| Healthwatch                                                           | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | Apologies     | ✓            | ✓          |
| Leicestershire Lead Member*                                           | Apologies              | Apologies | Apologies      | ✓             | Apologies    | Apologies  |
| Rutland Lead Member                                                   | ✓                      | ✓         | ✓              | Apologies     | ✓            | ✓          |

## Appendix 2 – Finance

The work of the Safeguarding Adults Board is supported by the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Partnerships Business Office. The Safeguarding Adults Board is funded by contributions from its partners.

A single funding arrangement for the Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Partnerships for 2020 onwards was agreed between the statutory partners.

**The contributions from partners for the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board for 2025-2026 can be seen below alongside contributions for the previous year:**

|                                                                     | <b>2024-2025</b> | <b>2025-2026</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Leicestershire County Council                                       | £46,375          | £46,375          |
| Rutland County Council                                              | £20,267          | £20,267          |
| Leicestershire Police                                               | £44,083          | £44,083          |
| Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) | £44,083          | £45,100          |
| <b>Total income for SAB</b>                                         | <b>£154,808</b>  | <b>£155,825</b>  |

**Expenditure for the Safeguarding Adults Board was apportioned as follows:**

|                          | <b>2024-2025</b> | <b>2025-2026</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Staffing                 | £147,241         | £157,779         |
| Independent Chairing     | £9,968           | £10,866          |
| Support Services         | £0               | £0               |
| Operating Costs          | £7,180           | £8,252           |
| Engagement               | £2,800           | £874             |
| Case Reviews             | £0               | £12,460          |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b> | <b>£167,189</b>  | <b>£190,231</b>  |

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. The current reserve that is carried forward is £103,315, when the overspend detailed above is deducted. 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.

### Appendix 3 – Learning & Development Resources

The [LLR SABs' YouTube channel](#) continues to develop a bank of safeguarding videos and other resources that can be utilised by partners for learning and development – for example, in single agency training and supervision. It is used to share local and national learning content, especially that which aligns with the Safeguarding Adults Boards' Business Plan priorities.

During 2025-2026, two print issues of the [Safeguarding Matters newsletter](#) were published, with a focus on disseminating learning from reviews and audits and promoting procedural updates. The issues included a spotlight on stalking and harassment, information on Project Echo (see below), and an article on the re-launch of [My Adult, Still my Child](#). This is a pioneering UK-based website designed to support parents and carers of young adults aged 16 and over who may not be able to make decisions for themselves. It provides legal guidance, advice on health and care decision-making, and resources for transitioning to adult services.

Two [Safeguarding Matters Live](#) events were held in July 2025 and December 2025. These are live online briefings for all staff across the children's and adults' multi-agency partnerships. They share learning from reviews and audits, procedure and guidance updates, and resources to support practice. The slides from the events are made available via the website and sessions are available to watch on the YouTube Channel. For the first time, the July 2025 Safeguarding Matters Live was a hybrid event, with in-person attendance at City Hall and also online attendance. The event was focused on a specific topic, Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse. It looked at how domestic abuse can impact both adults and children and what services are available to support, with stalls from some of these local services at City Hall. Topics included domestic abuse and older adults, Economic Abuse and the Domestic Abuse Act, the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process and Transnational Marriage Abandonment. This is a type of immigration abuse mostly suffered by migrant women which had recently been recognised as a form of Domestic Abuse in legislation. Topics covered in the December 2025 event included Project Echo – a project from Safelives alongside Living Without Abuse, putting the voices of survivors at the heart of local responses to domestic abuse; and PEGS (Parental Education Growth Support), which aims to reduce the impact of Child to Parent Abuse by supporting parents and professionals.

The Safeguarding Matters Digest is a regular email, which is used to disseminate local and national safeguarding information in a concise and regular format. There was a special Digest on National Stalking Awareness Week (21 April to 27 April 2025). Other topics covered in the Digests included the national Romance Fraud Awareness Video Campaign, launched by the Met Police in October 2025; the national County Lines Awareness webinars, hosted by the National County Lines Coordination Centre; and local events linked to the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence.

The Safeguarding Matters newsletters and Live PowerPoints and videos are available via the website and YouTube channel. Individuals can request to be added to the distribution list so that they are informed of publication and event dates by emailing [lrspbo@leics.gov.uk](mailto:lrspbo@leics.gov.uk). The Safeguarding Matters Digest is disseminated via

email to those that have signed up to receive it. To be added to the distribution list, individuals can email [lscpb@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:lscpb@leicester.gov.uk).

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