

**CABINET – 8 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****PART A****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) Annual Report 2025-2026.
2. The Safeguarding Adults Board's (SAB's) Annual Report is the report of the Independent Chair who must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding adults in the local area. This is a statutory requirement under the Care Act 2014.
3. The final Annual Report for Leicestershire and Rutland will be published later in September 2026.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes and comments on the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2025-2026.

Reasons for Recommendations

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

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

8. The LRSAB Annual Report will be considered by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 September and its comments will be reported to the Cabinet.
9. Any proposed suggestions or amendments to the Annual Report made by the Cabinet can be considered for incorporation into the final report, if required, before it is published by the end of September 2026.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

10. The LRSAB is a statutory body established as a result of the Care Act 2014. The main purpose of the SAB is to ensure effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of adults with care and support needs.
11. The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' have a [Strategic Plan 2025-2031](#). It includes the Business Plan for 2025-2027.
12. 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.
13. As outlined above, it is a statutory requirement for the Chair of the SAB to publish an annual report into the effectiveness of safeguarding adults' arrangements in the local area.

Resource Implications

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 within a budget to which partner agencies contribute. SAB statutory partners share the operating costs of the SAB for Leicestershire and Rutland.
16. 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.
17. 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.

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

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

20. None.

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PART B

Background

Annual Report 2025-2026

21. The LRSAB brings together organisations from the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors across the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland to oversee the multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults with care and support needs. The local safeguarding adults' arrangements are led by the statutory safeguarding partners – the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland 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.
22. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2025-2026 on safeguarding outcomes for adults 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](#).
23. A pre-publication draft of the Annual Report 2025-2026 can be found in full as the appendix to this report.
24. 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 a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR). One case met the criteria for a SAR, and a review has been commenced.

Consultations

25. The draft Annual Report is produced as a summary of the work of the SAB which has been carried out in relation to safeguarding and prevention. A copy of the report will be published on the Leicestershire and Rutland website – <https://lrsb.org.uk/sab-annual-reports-and-business>.
26. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.
27. The report will also be considered by the Adults and Cultural Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 September.

Equality Implications

28. 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

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

Crime and Disorder Implications

30. The LRSAB works closely with Community Safety Partnerships in Leicestershire to scrutinise and challenge performance in community safety issues that affect the safeguarding and well-being of individuals and groups, for example domestic abuse and Prevent. The LRSAB also supports Community Safety Partnerships in carrying out Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, previously called Domestic Homicide Reviews, and acting on their recommendations.

Health Implications

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

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 12 September 2025: [Draft Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2024-2025](#)

[Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards' Strategic Plan 2025-2031, including the Business Plan 2025-2027](#)

Appendix

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