

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
17 SEPTEMBER 2014

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD/SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING BOARDS**

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's attention the draft Annual Report 2013/14 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) for consultation and comment (attached at Appendix A).
2. The report will be presented for final approval to a joint meeting of the LRLSCB and LRSAB on 31 October 2014. Any comments or proposed additions and amendments made by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be considered before the final report is presented to the LRLSCB and LRSAB.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

3. The LRSAB is not at present a partnership required by regulation; however it will become a partnership required by regulation from March 2015 as a result of the Care Act 2014. For some years now, by choice, an Annual Report for the LRSAB has been produced. This is the second combined Annual Report covering both the adult and children's safeguarding boards.
4. The LRLSCB is a partnership that is required by regulation. The main purpose of the LSCB is to ensure, effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of children and young people.

Background

5. Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB/SAB became a conjoined board two years ago with the intention of ensuring that there are effective and efficient safeguarding services in an integrated manner. This has supported a focus on vulnerable children, adults and families.
6. The Independent Chair of the LRLSCB is required to complete an annual report and submit this to the Chief Executive, the Leader of the County Council and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is considered good practice also to present the Annual Report to the local authority's scrutiny committees primarily for them to consider whether the local authority is effectively carrying out its functions in relation to safeguarding which include ensuring that the Boards themselves are effective bodies. Whilst these statutory requirements do not apply to the LRSAB

Leicestershire has opted to adopt the same arrangements in reporting from this Board.

7. The LRLSCB/LRSAB Business Plan for 2014/15 was presented to this Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10th June 2014. The Committee will, therefore, be aware of some of the strengths and areas for development that arose from the assessment of performance in 2013/14 since this informed the framing of that Business Plan. However, the Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance. It is, necessarily, a detailed report given that it covers two safeguarding boards and performance in two local authority areas. In addition there is some information that must be included in the LRLSCB report as required by Working Together 2013. An Executive Summary is included to assist readers in gauging the key achievements and development needs arising from the assessment of the Boards' performance across 2013/14 (attached at Appendix B).
8. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2013/14 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and adults in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set in the Business Plan 2013/14 and against other statutory functions that the LSCB in particular must undertake.
9. In addition to the Business Plan priorities the LRSAB witnessed some significant influences on its work during 2013/14. First, there has been the passage of the Care Act 2014 which includes a requirement that Safeguarding Adults Boards become statutory entities from March 2015. Throughout the year the LRSAB has kept under close scrutiny the proposed intentions of the new legislation and its impact on the Board's governance and accountability arrangements. In addition, there has been a number of key national reports such as those relating to the Winterbourne View and Mid-Staffordshire NHS Hospital Trust that have required the partnership to reflect on local practice and performance to secure assurance that learning and related action arising from these reviews has been understood and implemented. All these issues will continue to be a focus in the coming year.
10. The Annual Report 2013/14 includes:
 - a. A brief overview of safeguarding context in the local area with some key context data;
 - b. An overview of the Boards' governance and accountability arrangements;
 - c. Analysis of performance against the three key priorities in the 2013/14 Business Plan which were to:
 - i. Improve the effectiveness and impact of the Boards;
 - ii. Secure confidence in the operational effectiveness of partner agencies safeguarding services, both individually and collectively, supported by a more robust quality assurance and performance management framework;
 - iii. Improve the effectiveness of communication and engagement.
 - d. An overview of performance in key statutory functions notably the Serious Case Review Sub-Group and Child Death Overview Panel – both of which are statutorily required in the children's safeguarding arena.
11. The Executive Summary to the report highlights key achievements and areas for development that have been drawn into the Business Plan for 2014/15.

Proposals/Options

12. The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Annual Report and to make any comments or proposed additions or amendments to the report that will be considered prior to the final version of the Annual Report being presented to a joint meeting of the Boards on 31st October 2014.

Consultation

13. All members of the Boards and their Executive have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the annual report. In addition discussions have been held with youth councils in both local authority areas to enable them to contribute their views about safeguarding in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Conclusions

14. Following the extensive consultation that this report is being subject to, a final version that will be fit for purpose will be considered by the LRLSCB and LRSAB at its meeting on 31st October for approval. It will then be published and distributed to partner organisations and made available to the general public.

Officers to Contact

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Appendices

Appendix A - Draft Annual Report 2013/14 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB)
 Appendix B – Executive Summary

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

15. Safeguarding vulnerable children, young people and vulnerable adults concerns individuals who are likely to be disadvantaged in a number of ways. The Annual Report sets out how the LSCB/SAB seeks to ensure that a fair, effective and equitable service is discharged by the partnership. Likewise the Annual Report and Business Plan 2014/15 extracts set out how the partnership will seek to engage with all parts of the community in the coming year.

Partnership Working and associated issues

16. Safeguarding is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation, Working Together 2013, published by the Department for Education.

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