



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 3 NOVEMBER
2014**

**LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD/SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the Children and Families 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.
2. The report will be presented for approval to a joint meeting of the Boards at their meeting on 31st October 2014. Any comments or proposed additions and amendments made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be addressed in the final report before it is published.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

3. 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.
4. 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.

Background

5. Leicestershire and Rutland LRLSCB/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/SAB 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.
7. The LRLSCB/LRSAB Business Plan for 2014/15 was presented to this Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9th June. 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 that will be a key document for consideration when Ofsted carries out its 'Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers' alongside which a review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding children board will be undertaken. It is important to recognise that Working Together 2013 requires the Annual Report to be produced and identifies a range of issues that must be covered. It is, necessarily, a detailed report but we have included an Executive Summary to assist readers in gauging the key achievements and development needs arising from the assessment of the Boards' performance across 2013/14.

8. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work we have undertaken in 2013/14 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and adults in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically it evaluates our performance against the priorities that we set in our 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 LRLSCB witnessed some significant changes in the national frameworks governing its operation. First, the Department for Education issued a revised version of Working Together 2013 in March 2013 that has required the Board to review its governance arrangements and to formulate a number of new safeguarding arrangements including a new Threshold Protocol and a Learning and Improvement Framework.
10. The Annual Report 2013/14 can be found in full at:
www.lrsb.org.uk/annualreports

(The full report and the Executive Summary will be published on 31 October 2014)

11. It includes:
 - (a) A brief overview of the local area safeguarding context 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.

12. The Executive Summary to the report is attached at Appendix A and highlights key achievements and areas for development that have been drawn into the Business Plan for 2014/15.

Proposals/Options

13. The committee is asked to consider the Annual Report and to make any comments or proposed additions or amendments to the report that will be addressed prior to the final version of the Annual Report being published.

Consultation

14. 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

15. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee should note and comment on the attached Annual Report 2013/14.

Background Papers

15. Report to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11 November 2013.

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s88299/8%20-%20LSCB%20Annual%20Report%202012-13%20-%20cover.pdf>

Officers to Contact:

Paul Burnett, Independent Chair, Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB/SAB
Telephone: 0116 305 6306
Email: Paul.burnett@leics.gov.uk

Lesley Hagger, Director of Children and Family Services
Telephone: 0116 305 6340
Email: Lesley.hagger@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

- Appendix A -Executive Summary of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013/14.

Relevant Impact Assessments:Equality and Human Rights Implications

17. 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

18. 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.