



**CABINET – 17 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD  
PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**PART A**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to Cabinet's attention the Annual Report 2020/21 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) for consultation and comment.
2. The final Annual Report is the report of the identified Safeguarding Partners who must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children.
3. Any comments or proposed amendments made by the Cabinet will be addressed in the final report before it is published at the end of September

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes and comments on the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) Annual Report for 2020/21.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

5. Leicestershire County Council is one of the Statutory Partners who have a shared and equal statutory duty with the local Clinical Commissioning Groups and Chief of Leicestershire Police to agree and make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Leicestershire.
6. The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements locally are managed through a partnership – the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership that covers the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The arrangements were published on 28 June 2019 and commenced on 29 September 2019, replacing the former Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
7. In Leicestershire and Rutland the Annual Report has traditionally been presented to the Cabinet and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
8. Presenting the Annual Report enables the Cabinet to comment on the content of this document and consider whether it identifies matters that it wishes to address in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding within the work of the Authority.

**Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

9. The Annual Report of the LRSCP was considered by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 September 2020 and its comments are summarised in paragraph 31 of this report.
10. Any proposed additions or amendments to the Annual Report made by the Cabinet will be considered by the Safeguarding Partners for incorporation into the final documents which will be published by the end of September 2021.

### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

11. The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 set out specific duties for local authorities, working with partner organisations and agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 puts a duty on the local authority to provide services to children in need in their area; section 47 of the same Act requires local authorities to undertake enquiries if they believe a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm.
12. These duties can only realistically be discharged with the full co-operation of other partners, many of whom have individual duties when carrying out their functions under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.
13. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 (statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) give responsibility for this join-up locally with the safeguarding partners, the Police, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the local authority, which have a shared and equal duty to agree and make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
14. As stated above the LRSCP manages the statutory multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The arrangements were published on 28 June 2019 and commenced on 29 September 2019. These arrangements replaced the former Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
15. It is a statutory requirement, as set out in Working Together 2018, that the Safeguarding Partners publish a report at least once every twelve months on the arrangements and their effectiveness.

### **Resource Implications**

16. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. The LRSCP operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
17. Safeguarding partners have, along with Safeguarding Adults Board statutory partners set a single agreement of principles to share the operating costs of the Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards for Leicestershire and Rutland.
18. As part of this agreement Leicestershire County Council contributes £102,496 to the SAB and SCP in 2021/22. This is 31% of the total funding for the Leicestershire and Rutland SAB and SCP (£325,779). This compares with £112,633 in the previous

year which was 31% of the total budget for the Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB, SCP and SAB of £358,500 in 2020/21.

19. This compares with £137,897 in the previous year which was 40% of the total budget for the Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB, SCP and SAB of £343,419 in 2019/20.
20. Leicestershire County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Boards' Business Office that supports the SCP and SAB.

#### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

21. None.

#### **Officers to Contact**

Jane Moore, Director of Children and Family Services  
Telephone: 0116 305 6340  
Email: [Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk)

## **PART B**

### **Background**

22. The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for Leicestershire and Rutland were published on 28 June 2019 and commenced on 29 September 2019. The arrangements are reviewed each year by the Safeguarding Partners and changes are reported in the Annual Report.
23. The Safeguarding Children Partnership shares some operational arrangements with the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) and some partnership structures with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCPb).

### **Annual Report 2020/21 and Recent Progress**

24. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2020/21 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set out in the LRSCP Business Plan 2020/21.
25. A pre-publication draft of the Annual Report 2020/21 can be found as the Appendix to this report.
26. The report includes an independent scrutiny assessment of progress from the Independent Advisor to the Partnership Kay Whyte-Bell.
27. The report outlines the learning, assurance, training and improvement activity of the LRSCP and its partners, particularly the response to difficult circumstances of the pandemic and the impact this has had on safeguarding children. Key messages from the SCP specifically in relation to Leicestershire are:
  - a. Partners have worked well together to safeguarding children and to identify needs and areas for improvement to safeguard children during the difficult and changing circumstances of the pandemic.
  - b. Continued work is required to sustain approaches that hear the voice and understand the lived experience of children in safeguarding and respond to this.
  - c. Safeguarding babies and the mental health of young people are notable areas to improve safeguarding identified during the pandemic.
  - d. The partnership will continue to work together and develop links across partnerships to foster a reliable, trusting culture in organisations and across our area and challenge and drive improvement in multi-agency safeguarding of adults.
28. The report outlines a change to the existing arrangements in order to enable the delegated officers of the statutory safeguarding partners to chair the partnership in place of the Independent Advisor. This comes into place in October 2021 and has been introduced in order to allow the Independent Advisor to give a greater focus to independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements.

### **Consultations**

29. The Annual Report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the SCP has carried out with children and young people and with practitioners.
30. All members of the SCP have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on drafts of the Annual Report.
31. As stated above, the Annual Report has also been considered by the County Council's Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The committee welcomed the report and made no further comment on this.

### **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet on 18 September 2020 "Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019/20 and Business Plan 2020/21"

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5997&Ver=4>

### **Appendix**

Appendix – Draft Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership 2020/21.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

32. Safeguarding children, young people and adults concerns individuals who are likely to be disadvantaged in a number of ways. Information on differing needs of and impacts on different groups of individuals with regard to safeguarding is considered as part of the process to develop the Partnership's Business Plan. Specific impacts on or views of different groups is also considered in the work of the SCP's Planning and Delivery and Assurance and Audit Groups in assessing performance and effectiveness with regard to safeguarding. The SCP has identified a specific priority for 2021/22 to explore and respond to safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

33. There is a close connection between the work of the LRSCP and that of community safety partnerships in Leicestershire. For example the LRSCP works closely with community safety partnerships 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 LRSCP also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.

### **Environmental Implications**

34. The published LRSCP Annual Report will primarily be made available on-line in electronic form, rather than paper. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

### **Partnership Working and associated issues**

35. Safeguarding children is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation, Working Together 2018, published by the Department for Education.