



**CABINET – 17 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND  
RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD (LRSAB)**

**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 Adults Board (LRSAB) for consultation and comment.
2. Any comments or proposed amendments made by the Cabinet will be addressed in the final report before it is published later in September 2021.
3. The final 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.

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes and comments on the LRSAB Annual Report for 2020/21 particularly in relation to the business of the County Council.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

5. The LRSAB is a statutory body and local authorities have 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 also been presented to the Cabinet and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
8. Presenting the Annual Report enables the Cabinet to comment on the content of the Annual Report and consider whether the report 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 LRSAB Annual Report was considered by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 September. and its comments are summarised in paragraph 25 of this report.
10. Any proposed additions or amendments to the Annual Report made by the Cabinet will be considered by the Independent Chair for incorporation into the final report, before it is published by the end of September 2021.

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

11. The LRSAB is a statutory body established as a result of the Care Act 2014. The main purpose of the LRSAB is to ensure effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.
12. 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. This report must 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.
13. The Business Plan of the LRSAB for the period that this Annual Report relates to was considered by Cabinet on 18 September 2020.

### **Resource Implications**

14. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. The LRSAB operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
15. Safeguarding Adults Board statutory partners have, along with Safeguarding Partners for safeguarding children, set a single agreement of principles to share the operating costs of the Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCPs) and Safeguarding Adults Boards for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
16. 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.
17. Leicestershire County Council also hosts the Safeguarding Partnerships' Business Office that supports the SAB and the SCP.

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

18. None.

### **Officers to Contact**

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

#### **Annual Report 2020/21**

19. 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 adults in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically, it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set out in the LRSAB Business Plan 2020/21.
20. A pre-publication draft of the Annual Report 2020/21 can be found in full as the Appendix to this report.
21. The key messages from the LRSAB, specifically in relation to Leicestershire are:
  - a. Partnership working to safeguard adults with care and support needs has strengthened during the difficult circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - b. Individuals and their needs can become hidden in plain sight within organisational and inter-organisational processes. This is a particular concern for those with learning disabilities.
  - c. Understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act in relation to Safeguarding is improving but requires a sustained focus.
  - d. The Board continues to seek ongoing assurance that people within the Transforming Care cohort of adults at risk are being adequately safeguarded.
  - e. The Board will continue to work together and develop links across partnerships to foster a reliable, trusting culture in organisations and across the local area and challenge and drive improvement in multi-agency safeguarding of adults.
22. Work to address hidden harm including highlighting vulnerability of particular individuals, such as those with learning disabilities is a priority within the SABs business plan for 2020/21. This will also include work to encourage developing and responding to professional curiosity and escalating safeguarding concerns.

### **Consultations**

23. The annual report includes a summary of the consultation and engagement work the SAB has undertaken with the public, adults with care and support needs and with practitioners during 2020/21.
24. All members of the Board have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Report.
25. The Report was also considered by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 6 September. The Committee welcomed the Annual Report and made no further comments.

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

26. The LRSAB seeks to ensure that a fair, effective and equitable service is discharged by the partnership to safeguard vulnerable adults. At the heart of the work is a focus on any individual or group that may be at greater risk of safeguarding vulnerability.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

27. The SAB 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 SAB also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.

### **Environmental Implications**

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

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

29. Safeguarding adults is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation relating to the Care Act 2014.

### **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet on 18 September 2020 "Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2019/20, Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and Business Plan 2020/21"

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

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix - Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Draft Annual Report 2020/21

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