



LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN BOARD (LRLSCB)

# Executive Summary to Annual Report 2015/16



This overview summarises the key achievements, outputs, outcomes and impact of the work of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) in 2015/16. It also highlights the further improvements that will be sought in 2016/17.

We recognise that the Annual Report has to be a detailed and complex record of our work, so this summary is intended to be accessible to a wider audience, and enable readers to understand the impact of our work over the last year.

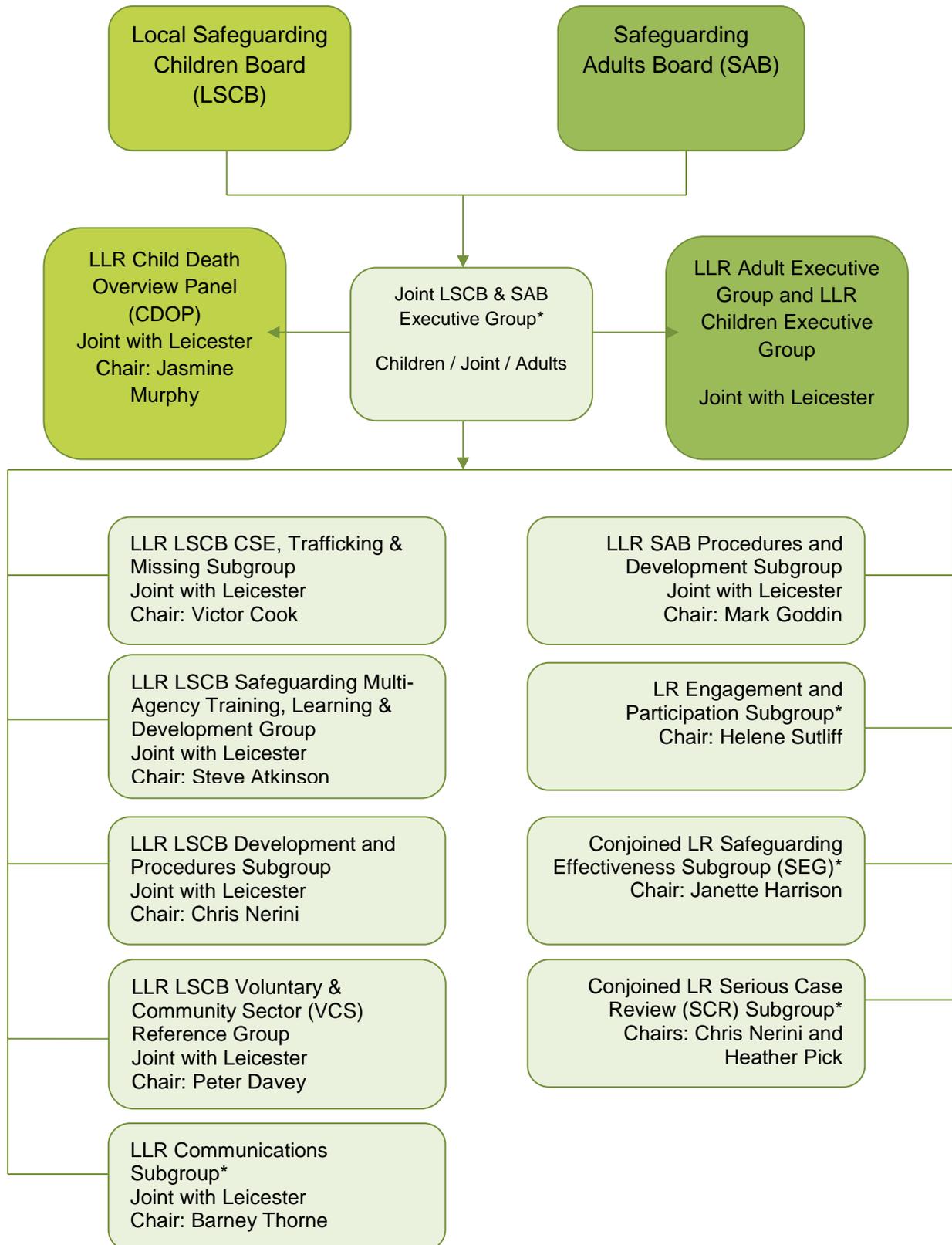
The overview includes reference to the work that has been undertaken in collaboration with the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB).

The information is presented alongside the key priorities in our Business Development Plan 2016/17.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. R. Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Paul Burnett  
Independent Chair, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Boards

## Leicestershire & Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board 2015/16



\* Those meetings marked have joint sections between the LSCB and SAB to reflect the areas of joint working between the children and adults agendas

## The Role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board

The LRLSCB serves the counties of **Leicestershire** and **Rutland**. It is a statutory body established in compliance with The Children Act 2004 (Section13) and The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006. Its work is governed by Working Together 2015.

The statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs are set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 and are:

- a) To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

## Business Plan Priorities 2015/16

Priorities set by the LRLSCB for 2015/16 were to be assured that:

- “Safeguarding is Everyone’s Responsibility”
- Children and young people are safe, including assurance of the quality of care for any child not living with a parent or someone with parental responsibility
- Services for children, adults and families are effectively coordinated to ensure that children and adults are safe
- Our Learning and Improvement Framework is raising service quality and outcomes for children, young people and adults
- The workforce is fit for purpose.

In addition a number of cross-cutting priorities were set, as follows:

- Safeguarding services are coordinated
- The voices of children and adults are heard
- The voices of staff are heard
- Sub-regional and regional coordination will be maximised
- Effective communication must underpin all Board activity.

## Priority 1:

### ‘Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility’

The LRLSCB has met 4 times during 2015/16. The majority of Board members have achieved the targeted 75% attendance rate. Membership meets Working Together 2015 requirements and, indeed, extends beyond this.

There is a need to improve attendance rates from the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) element of probation services and CAFCASS.

Attendance by schools has improved considerably since last year's Annual Report.

Attendance at the Executive and Subgroups has continued to be good and the greater distribution of leadership of Subgroups from across the Partnership continues to have a positive effect.

Part of the strategic role of the Safeguarding Children Board is to secure engagement with senior leaders in partner organisations beyond the Board membership and to build robust relationships with other key partnership bodies. The LRLSCB has continued to achieve this in a number of ways:

- In collaboration with the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board, the Safeguarding Children Board collectively hosts an annual Safeguarding Summit of leading politicians and chief officers from partner agencies. All partner agencies attended the annual Safeguarding Summit thus enabling senior leaders to contribute to the LRSAB needs analysis and priority setting and to reflect resulting objectives in their own agency's strategic plans.
- Formal protocols between the LRLSCB and both the Health and Well-Being Boards in Leicestershire and Rutland to secure effective cross-scrutiny and challenge. Both the annual LRLSCB Business Plan and the LRLSCB Annual Report were presented to:
  - Leicestershire and Rutland Health and Well-Being Boards
  - Rutland People Scrutiny Panels (Children and Adults & Health)
  - Leicestershire Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Children & Families and for Adults & Communities
  - The Rutland & Leicestershire County Council Cabinets.
- Interfaces with the Leicestershire Supporting Families Programme, the Rutland Changing Lives Programme and the Leicestershire and Rutland Better Care Together Board.

The new Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework introduced in 2014/15 has been further developed and embedded. This aligns performance measures with the Business Plan and tests impact in both quantitative and qualitative terms as well as against service user and staff views and opinions.

Contributions to the Framework now extend across all partners whereas in the past we relied almost wholly on information from the two County Councils. The result has been a LSCB dataset that evidences the status of the delivery of the Business Plan and identifies where additional assurance is required. It also enables partners to understand the quality of services provided by agencies other than their own.

There has been a culture of challenge within the Board and across agencies particularly in areas of safeguarding where further assurance is required. Examples include:

- The timeliness of the referral to Health from Children's Social Care when a child first comes into care and the timeliness by Health of arranging an Initial Health Assessment (IHA) appointment for the child
- The lack of Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires available for Looked After Children (LAC) Review Health Assessments by the LAC Nurses
- Leicestershire Children's Social Care's high levels of repeat child protection plans
- The requirement for a more systematic approach to capture the voice of the child and ensure this is used to influence service development, particularly for child protection services and children (and their families) who require hospital admission for their mental health needs who are placed out of area
- The lack of a training database to evidence safeguarding training undertaken by Leicestershire and Rutland Children's Social Care
- Understanding the data around contacts that generated 'No Further Action'
- The alignment of the Better Care Together Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Pathway for admission to Tier 1-3 CAMHS with the LSCB Child Safeguarding Thresholds.

These areas are now being addressed, or have been addressed, through identified work streams and audits.

A challenge log is maintained by the Business Office, recording challenges raised in Board and other meetings. This is regularly reviewed by the Independent Chair ensuring updates, outcomes and impact are accurate.

Partner agencies' compliance with agreed safeguarding standards was tested using the Section 11 audit tool. All agencies that did not assess themselves as fully compliant in that audit have worked to agreed improvement plans and were monitored by the LRLSCB throughout the year.

The strategic Section 11 audit is currently in progress and the results will be compared against previous Section 11 audits and reported in the Annual Report for 2016/17.

The other key process introduced in 2015/16 was a testing of Section 11 assessment outcomes against the views of frontline staff and managers across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland partnership. A summary of the process, its findings and key messages are set out in the main report.

As mentioned above there has been a significant improvement in engagement with schools both in terms of their attendance at Board meetings but also through a range

of programmes including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Missing and Trafficking, Domestic Abuse (Operation Encompass) and e-Safety.

Between 2014/15 and 2015/16, there has been a 14% increase in the number of contacts and enquiries from academy and maintained schools to Leicestershire Children & Family Services from a total of 1825 contacts in 2014/15 to 2084 in 2015/16. Of the 2084 contacts received from schools in 2015/16: 782 (38%) of these warranted a referral to Leicestershire Children's Social Care for further investigation. Analysis of the outcomes of contacts from education sources shows that the proportion resulting in 'no further action' is reducing, and the proportion referred to Social Care is increasing. This suggests that the contacts being received are becoming more appropriate. Rutland Children & Young People's Services received a proportionate increase that resulted in, during 2015/16, a total of 161 contacts and enquiries of which 89 (55%) warranted further investigation.

The annual safeguarding return from schools shows a similarly positive picture in terms of compliance with expected safeguarding standards.

There has been significant joint working with Leicester City LSCB which has contributed to improved outcomes in relation to performance of: the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP); FGM procedures; Neglect toolkit; CSE, Trafficking and Missing strategies and action plans; workforce development including the safeguarding Competency Framework; development of consistent policies and procedures in relation to single-assessment, thresholds and learning and improvement. Two major conferences on Neglect and learning from Serious Case Reviews were delivered in collaboration with Leicester City with evidence of impact on future practice.

In September 2015, the two LSCBs launched the new LSCB Information Sharing Agreement onto the LSCB Website and at a launch event at Leicester City Hall that was attended by approximately 160 delegates.

Partnership with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) has continued to be strong which has achieved: effective communication with the sector; wider engagement of the VCS in safeguarding training and development; greater clarity across the VCS about safeguarding standards, policies and procedures; and providing support in the delivery of safeguarding priorities across the VCS.

Steps were taken to extend opportunities to secure the engagement and participation of service users including work with HealthWatch. We have worked closely with County Youth Councils, with Young Inspectors and with schools councils to understand and incorporate into our plans their safeguarding risk priorities.

All relevant agencies made their financial contribution to the running of the LRLSCB in full providing the Board with a budget of £326,030. The budget was spent in full as was a significant proportion of the reserve account that had been challenged in the past.

Significant work was done to prepare for inspection which included:

- Scrutiny and challenge of previous Ofsted inspection recommendations in Leicestershire and Rutland

- Monitoring and scrutiny of inspection outcomes in other agencies
- Self-assessing LRLSCB performance against the Ofsted framework used to judge the effectiveness of LSCBs.

### Priorities for 2016/17

Areas for improvement included in our plans for 2016/17 include:

- Achieving more consistent attendance at Board and Subgroups from the CRC and CAF/CASS
- Improvement in Initial Health Assessments
- Progress the new arrangements for undertaking Section 11 audit and peer review
- Further enhancing multi- agency audit activity.



## Priority 2:

### To be assured that children and young people are safe

The LRLSCB's focus has been to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded across what Professor Eileen Munro described as 'the Child's Journey' from universal support, through Early Help, support to children in need, child protection and care. The overriding objective has been to secure effective early support to avoid the need for children to move up the continuum of need and avoid formal child protection and care interventions. In this quest there has been some success but challenges remain.

The headline profile data is as follows:

#### Safeguarding Profile 2015/16

Rutland	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16*	Leicestershire	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16*
Number of <b>contacts</b> to children's services	690	717	901	Number of <b>contacts</b> to children's services	15228	14632	12773
Number of <b>referrals</b> to children's social care	241	255	369	Number of <b>referrals</b> to children's social care	5895	4635	3953
Number of Single Assessments	n/a	201	313	Number of Single Assessments	n/a	3797	2412
Proportion of contacts referred to Children's Social Care	35%	36%	41%	Proportion of contacts referred to Children's Social Care	39%	32%	32%
Proportion of contacts referred to Early Help	15%	11%	21% (Q4)	Proportion of contacts referred to Early Help	13%	14%	21%
Number of children subject to a child protection plan at 31 March	34	27	29	Number of children subject to a child protection plan at 31 March	439	393	347
Number of children looked after at 31 March	34	34	39	Number of children looked after at 31 March	455	470	470
CSE referrals	n/a	3	8	CSE referrals	n/a	184	303
Missing episodes from care	n/a	3	13	Missing episodes from care	n/a	470	709

\*provisional data

More detailed analysis is provided on the following pages.

## In Leicestershire impact has included:

### Contact, referral and assessment

- There was a (13%) decrease in the number of contacts and enquiries by partners and the public from 14632 in 2014/15 to 12773 during 2015/16. However, the conversion rate of contacts leading to a referral of safeguarding concern remains at 32% across both periods.
- The rate of referrals in recent years has been below that of England and our statistical neighbours, but the rate of re-referrals has been close to or slightly above this comparator group.
- There has been a steady increase in the number of referrals from summer 2015 after changes to the process in First Response.
- Re-referral rates since August 2015 have remained below 20% demonstrating a better response/assessment of need at the point of first referral.

Qualitative audits show:

- Strong evidence of the embedding of Signs of Safety (SoS) and voice in practice
- Good understanding of thresholds
- Partnership work is strong
- Good management oversight

### Quality of Assessment

- On average 190 Single Assessments are completed each month.
- Most are undertaken at the point of referral in First Response but Strengthening Family Services, Disabled Children's Service and Locality Teams also complete them.
- Current performance consistently outperforms the statistical neighbour group and England as a whole.
- SoS continues to be embedded across the service and specific workforce development within First Response is planned in the autumn of 2016.

### Early Help

- In Locality Hubs 94% of family referrals are allocated or processed within 28 days (target is 95%).
- There has been an increase of families in receipt of Early Help support quarter upon quarter.
- Children's Centres have seen a continued increase in the number of children engaged in the programme within the year reaching 91.6% of target (further numbers still to be ratified).
- Supporting Leicestershire Families has completed almost 2000 assessments of Children and Families each quarter.
- Troubled Families Claims – total claim for Phase 2 to date is 244 outcomes, which maintains Leicestershire as the highest performing Authority in the East Midlands.
- Case studies of family stories produced.
- Voice of the child and families captured.

- User satisfaction demonstrates improved level of satisfaction with Children's Centre services.
- Staff feedback and voice captured regularly through supervision and service meetings.

### Child Protection

- Leicestershire has generally had a child protection plan rate higher than its statistical neighbours but a lower rate of repeat plans.
- Child protection plan numbers peaked in August 2014, but despite a significant fall since in the number of open plans, the rate of repeat plans has risen markedly.
- In Leicestershire, the Children's Rights Service supported a total of 119 young people in relation to child protection processes during 2015/16. 64 young people were represented at their Child Protection Conference by the Children's Rights Officer, and 30 young people attended their own Child Protection Conference.
- There has been a thematic audit on repeat plans, a staff conference, discussion at the LSCB and a senior management team audit. The conclusions and implications for practice are that procedures and oversight of the step-down child protection to Child in Need services requires reinforcement, particularly in cases where the 'toxic trio' of domestic violence, substance misuse and parental mental health problems are factors.

### Looked After Children

The number of children looked after by Leicestershire County Council increased steadily from 2007/08 until levelling off over the past 2 years. Leicestershire have improved placement stability for children being looked after in the same placement for over 2 years or placed for adoption. There has also been an improvement in the timeliness of children's looked after review meetings by reviewing the key performance indicator within the Safeguarding Improvement Unit (SIU) 2016/17 delivery plan and changing internal administration systems. This improvement has had a positive impact on the placement stability and permanence planning for children with Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) ensuring appropriate plans are in place to safeguard and promote the overall welfare of our children.

## In Rutland impact has included:

### Contact, referral and assessment

- There has been an increase in the number of contacts and enquiries by partners and the public for Rutland from 717 in 2014/15 to 901 during 2015/16. There was an average of 60 per month in 2014/15 compared to 75 per month (a 26% increase) in 2015/16. The conversion rate from contacts/enquiries to referral in Rutland was 41% during 2015/16, an increase from mid-30% in the preceding two years. This exemplifies the positive work undertaken across the partnership to ensure referrers in Rutland are clear about thresholds and refer appropriately.

- Conversion rates from referral to assessment increased from 33% to 47%. This underlines the success of work undertaken in Rutland in respect of threshold application and understanding and this was a priority during the year.
- As a result, CSE referrals have increased fourfold from 2 in 2014/15 to 8 for 2015/16, reflecting work undertaken to raise awareness about this issue.

Qualitative audits are showing signs of improvement in:

- The application of thresholds by the Duty Team, which are being more appropriately and consistently applied.
- The extent of management oversight, which has been strengthened in the latter part of the year.

### Quality of Assessment

- The number of assessments undertaken in 2015/16 increased by 56% over 2014/15.
- A combination of an increase in the volume of assessments and staff shortages resulted in a deterioration in performance towards the end of 2015/16. The backlog of assessments are being addressed and Rutland expects a significant improvement in performance very early in the 2016/17 financial year.
- Audit work is showing a solid improvement in the quality of the most recent assessments and this is supported by stronger management oversight. There is still some work to be done to ensure this is consistent across the service and that the Authority responds robustly to changing risk in open cases.
- Risk recognition and improving assessments are a priority for 2016/17.

### Early Help

- Greater numbers of cases are being picked up through Early Help as a result of the co-location of Social Care and Early Help through a single “front door”, helping to ensure responses to families are both timely and appropriate.
- The number of cases receiving an earlier Early Help response or a targeted response has increased significantly and incrementally.
- The application of thresholds has improved and Early Help services are closely integrated with Social Care, supporting the effective “step up” and “step down” of cases. On average 35% of cases held by Early Help are now supporting Social Care interventions.
- The quality of Early Help Assessments (EHAs) has improved, including more child-centred assessments and planning.
- Support days are in place for schools to discuss and review Early Help cases. 100% of sessions were taken up by schools during the 2015/16 academic year. Early Help Co-ordinators are supporting external partners to undertake EHAs utilising Signs of Safety. Audits of external EHAs have shown an improvement with 50% of cases graded as good.
- The needs of families are being met effectively by Early Help services. On average 85% of families receiving targeted intervention support close with their needs met.

- Registrations in Children Centre services have increased with 92% of families now registered.
- Families with a higher level of need are routinely accessing services. The sustained engagement of vulnerable families in Children Centre services has increased significantly from 55% to 91% during 2015/16.
- Levels of achievement in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profiles have improved with 75% of children achieving the expected level of development in 2015, above the national average of 60%.
- User satisfaction levels have improved with 92% of families rating Children Centre services as good to outstanding.
- The user satisfaction survey demonstrates improved levels in early years and services for children with disabilities. 90% of children reported that short breaks services made a difference to them.
- Partner agency staff feel supported with cases causing concern and are accessing training sessions provided by Rutland County Council and schools support days.
- All Early Help staff are trained in utilising Signs of Safety to work with families and are feeling more confident.
- Changing Lives achieved its target of family attachments onto the programme in the first year of Phase 2 during 2015/16.
- Professionals report increased confidence and understanding of Early Help processes.

### Child Protection

- Children subject to Child Protection Plans rose from a low of 23 in August 2015 to a peak of 37 in February before falling back to 29 in March as two large families were removed from plans.
- No children have been subject to a Child Protection Plan for more than two years and, whilst there were 6 children subject to repeat plans, only 1 child had been subject to a previous plan in the last 5 years.
- All child protection cases were reviewed within statutory timescales.

### Looked After Children

Outcomes for Looked After Children in Rutland are very strong with excellent placement stability, timely permanency planning, access to physical health assessments & services and good educational outcomes. However, accessing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is challenging, particularly when children are placed outside Leicestershire/Rutland. This is being addressed with the local East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Rutland has experienced an increase in numbers of Looked After Children. A significant proportion of children are placed with connected persons often just outside the County borders. Although connected persons placements are recognised to promote placement stability and better outcomes, there are some challenges in relation to the provision of local foster carers to meet this increased demand.

## Across Leicestershire & Rutland

### Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) remains a key strategic priority for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

A joint LSCB CSE, Missing and Trafficking Subgroup covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is tasked with coordinating the local response.

During this business year key principles established last year to strengthen the local response have been progressed:

- Consolidation of a single Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) approach to tackling the issues of CSE, trafficked and missing children
- Sharing, pooling and an equitable distribution of resources within a single multi-agency specialist CSE team in line with emerging threat and need.

In June 2015 a CSE Coordinator for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland was appointed to support the work of the LSCB subgroup.

Progress has been made on a number of the identified priorities:

- A Local Authority data set has been established and key information is emerging. It has resulted in improved profiling of victims and those at risk of CSE and also risky persons and peers.
- Children and young people at risk of or subjected to CSE are now flagged on their health records and available to frontline health services.
- Frontline police officers are now using a CSE checklist when completing a Vulnerable Children's Report to support identification, prevention and timely referrals.
- An operating protocol for the multi-agency specialist CSE team has been developed.

The growth and development of the specialist multi-agency team response to CSE has continued apace with confirmation of investment from the NHS and Leicester City Council to add to the existing contributions from Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council.

The development has been further bolstered by a successful partnership bid of £1.23 million to the Strategic Partnership Development Fund (SPDF) of the Police and Crime Commissioner aimed at funding provision over the next two financial years. The aim is to utilise the funding to build capacity, capability and improve the effectiveness of the partnership in preventing, identifying and tackling CSE. The SPDF CSE Project is intended to fund both one-off and non-recurring initiatives, as well as extending existing initiatives and good practice. In addition, it will provide a temporary increase in structures and staffing. Planned initiatives include the extension of Warning Zone provision to include an innovative e-Safety programme and the development of a comprehensive school prevention activity programme including re-commissioning the 'Chelsea's Choice' theatre production. Additional posts include the recruitment of a multi-agency CSE analyst, a forensic psychologist, parenting support coordinator and specialist health professionals into the multi-

agency team. The CSE Coordinator is the nominated project manager for the SPDF CSE Project.

One of the initiatives, C.E.A.S.E. (Commitment to Eradicate Abuse and Sexual Exploitation), was launched at an event in February 2016.

Leicestershire agreed to participate in trialling the development of a new inspection regime. The two day Joint Targeted Area Inspection trial, held in September 2015, involved the inspectorates for children's services (Ofsted), Police (HMIC), Health (CQC) and Probation (HMIP) – combining their resources to undertake a multi-agency inspection focusing on the theme of CSE and missing children. Following feedback provided by the inspectors, a number of actions have been progressed through the Subgroup. This includes ensuring CSE concerns are flagged on health records.

Headlines from quality assurance and performance management include:

- The numbers of CSE referrals continues to rise in Leicestershire and Rutland. The increase highlights greater professional and public awareness following national media attention and success of the local 'Spot the Signs' awareness raising campaign. Furthermore there is evidence that the existence of shadow LSCB action plans at an agency level is also having the desired impact. This has translated into an increasing number of joint investigations and operations with the Police, increased levels of partnership disruption activity and a number of successful prosecutions during the business year.

Numbers of CSE referrals to Children's Social Care:

Indicator	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16				Trend chart (4 quarters)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Number of referrals where CSE is the main feature – Leicestershire	184	303	49	75	89	90	
Number of referrals where CSE is the main feature – Rutland	2	8	2	2	2	2	

- There has been some improvement in the range of agencies making CSE referrals. The source of the majority of referrals continues to be the Police, Children's Social Care and Early Help.
- Referrals have been received from a variety of sources including GP practices, non-Accident & Emergency hospitals and sexual health clinics highlighting a wider awareness of the issue. The specialist health professionals who are joining the multi-agency CSE team have a target to increase the number of referrals received from their health colleagues.
- Schools and colleges have been increasingly engaged in the agenda locally. However, direct referrals received from educational institutions remain low – this requires further investigation.
- Use of the CSE risk assessment tool in making referrals remains poor. The tool is designed to provide a consistent approach to identifying, measuring,

analysing and reviewing the risk. Further work is planned in 2016/17 to promote use of the tool.

- A majority of the referrals across LLR are for white females aged 13-15 years old.
- The percentage of referrals in relation to boys and young men has increased from 8% in 2014/15 to 19% in 2015/16, close to the local target of 20%.
- A concern remains that there is under-reporting in relation to children from BME groups considering the diversity of the area.
- Leicestershire referrals for out of authority children placed in Leicestershire reflect the large number of private children's homes in Leicestershire and highlight the need for placing authorities and partners in Leicestershire to work together to safeguard these children.

### Impact of the specialist multi-agency CSE team

The purpose of the team is to identify and take action to safeguard and protect children at risk of CSE, or who are being sexually exploited (online or in the real world), trafficked or have gone missing or run away. The team provides a victim-centred approach combining criminal investigation, safeguarding and educational programmes. The team coordinates the response to a number of high profile and cross boundary investigations.

It is envisioned that the emerging local operational approach will be based on the application of a 'hub and spokes model'. This approach aims to ensure that, whilst the multi-agency CSE team will have overall responsibility for coordinating the response to CSE, tackling CSE will remain everyone's business. To achieve this aim and strengthen the current approach CSE Champions will be embedded in all agencies.

Co-location of partner agencies has led to much better information sharing and more effective action in a greater number of CSE related cases. Working in a more joined up way has allowed the sharing of relevant intelligence and improved coordination of responses. This has already resulted in an improved ability to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators and provide early intervention to reduce harm and promote wellbeing. In addition it is clear that co-location has improved the timeliness of joint decision making about cases of concern, it has assisted in a greater understanding of the respective partner roles, and it has significantly assisted in the development of the collective understanding of those at risk of CSE. Earlier referrals into the team has enabled earlier intervention and resulting profile of the cases in relation to the level of harm dealt with by the team changing since its inception.

Raising the profile of the work of the team continues to be a priority so that Leicestershire and Rutland residents and bodies such as schools can continue to 'spot the signs' and make referrals if they have concerns.

### Children going Missing

In Leicestershire and Rutland the dataset for children going missing was under development in 2015/16. Partners are working to ensure there is robust data on children going missing; this will be completed in 2016/17.

Provisional Local Authority data for the latter part of 2015/16 indicates that the number of missing children has not markedly changed during that period, and the number of return interviews being undertaken with children who have gone missing has increased.

A risk area regarding children reported missing continues to be in relation to those placed in the area by other Local Authorities in Private Children's Homes.

Barnardo's has been commissioned locally to undertake return interviews with those children deemed to be at the highest risk of CSE and/or who go missing most frequently. The impact of this work is to be fully evaluated in 2016/17.

### Future Priorities

- Developing our response to online CSE
- Developing our approach to risky persons, offenders and serious and organised crime groups
- Broadening awareness raising activity in relation to CSE, trafficking and missing whilst targeting identified underrepresented groups
- Seeking assurance that the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Development Fund CSE Project leads to enhanced safeguarding outcomes for children
- Monitoring compliance with local policy and procedure – a CSE themed audit is planned by the LSCB Multi-Agency Audit Subgroup during Q3 2016/17
- Providing effective support and recovery services for victims of CSE and their families that meet the spectrum of their needs – the shadow Health CSE Group has been tasked to take this forward during 2016/17
- Ensuring a robust dataset regarding children going missing.

### Challenges

- The breadth, depth and scope of CSE related activity continues to increase. A proposed revision to the existing CSE governance arrangements is under consideration. The proposal is aimed at ensuring that activity across the partnership is effectively coordinated, enhanced and strengthened.
- The resources dedicated to tackling CSE and establishing a specialist multi-agency team are considerable and have been deployed innovatively, and thus far, successfully. However these resources may need to be reviewed in the light of the continuing increasing referrals and demand as the true scale and nature of CSE becomes evident.
- Establishing comprehensive, consistent and accurate data in relation to risky persons and offenders to enable a more targeted approach remains a challenge.
- Further work needs to be undertaken in relation to tackling online CSE within the context of the increasing accessibility of technology and social media. The response needs to be flexible and up to date.
- As above, consideration of how to approach the sensitive issue of raising awareness of CSE risks among year 6 and year 7 students, as abusers appear to be targeting younger children.

- Ensuring children and young people understand the issues surrounding consent and the nature of healthy sexual relationships through continued work in schools and colleges.
- Tackling the under-reporting in relation to BME children and engaging all communities in the agenda to ensure the range of referrals and response reflects the diversity of the population.

### Children Missing from Education

In Leicestershire at the end of 2015/16, a total of 107 children and young people were recorded as missing education. In Rutland the equivalent figure was 4 young people.

A range of initiatives have been put in place across both authorities better to ensure that these children are identified, safe and supported. These are set out in detail in the main report.

### Children Home Educated

During 2015/16, 95.2% of children living within Leicestershire received statutory checks. 100% of children living within Rutland and educated at home received statutory checks.

### Private Fostering

Both Leicestershire & Rutland County Councils have run targeted campaigns to increase referrals regarding private fostering. However both areas will be reviewing their campaigns and approaches for 2016/17 and beyond, as neither have seen an increase in referrals and remain concerned about the low number of referrals.

### E-Safety

E-safety awareness and support work was carried out across Leicestershire & Rutland, including:

- E-safety awareness was delivered during 40 x Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training sessions (that is, approximately 1,000 senior leaders in schools and colleges)
- E-safety presentations were updated and 1,000 disks with resources distributed to DSLs in schools and colleges including Police and YOS Officers
- 18 schools have now achieved the e-safety award with a total of 128 registered
- Two sessions were delivered to foster carers
- Telephone advice was offered to schools and colleges.

Over 5,000 students across Leicestershire and Rutland completed an e-safety survey and schools received their own results and the full data for comparison. The overarching results are outlined below and in more detail in the main report:

### Year 9 Survey 2016 (age 13-14): 2,626 responses

- 70% use a webcam or camera phone
- 6% of these use it to chat to new people
- A third of these were threatened, harassed or blackmailed

- 70% have learned about e-safety at school in the last year
- Instagram and Snapchat are now more popular than Facebook
- 10% have met up with strangers following an online introduction
- 35% of these went alone
- 8% of those meeting up said the person lied
- 7% admitted sending a self-taken indecent picture or video

#### **Year 6 (age 10-11): 2,518 responses**

- 50% say their parents take an interest
- 37% use a webcam or camera phone
- 4% of these talk to new people
- 70% have learned about e-safety at school in the last year
- 55% have a social network profile
- 25% have never met over 10 “friends”
- 10% have felt unsafe or uncomfortable online.

Comments in school Ofsted reports are overwhelmingly positive about children’s knowledge of how to stay safe online. A minority of children continue to get caught up in inappropriate communication with grooming adults and there is an ongoing need to highlight this issue to young people. Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation via the internet is a significant ongoing concern and is highlighted in training.

Schools have received positive comments in Ofsted reports about e-safety provision for pupils and about pupils’ awareness of how to be safe online. No Ofsted reports have been negative about this.

In surveys, pupils report that schools are addressing e-safety effectively in the curriculum.

#### **Priorities for 2016/17**

Our Business Development Plan 2016/17 priorities to secure assurance that children are safe are to:

- Secure robust and effective arrangements to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Missing and Trafficking
- To champion and support the extension of Signs of Safety (SoS) across the Partnership and secure assurance of the effectiveness of multi-agency processes/working and evidence of positive impact for service users
- Be assured that thresholds for services are understood across the partnership and applied consistently
- Be assured that Early Help Services are effectively coordinated across the LSCB Partnership and secure outcomes that reduce pressure on child protection and care services
- To be assured that the LLR Neglect strategy increases understanding, identification, risk assessment and management of neglect and reduces prevalence in Leicestershire & Rutland.

## Priority 3:

### To be assured that services for children, services for adults and services for families are effectively coordinated to ensure children and adults are safe

This priority was introduced to test the effectiveness of safeguarding across the children and adult service arenas and to gauge the impact of the closer alignment between the LRLSCB and the LRSAB.

The areas of focus and headline achievements across Leicestershire & Rutland have been:

#### Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- The production and launch of revised FGM procedures
- A FGM communication plan was sent out to all schools across Leicestershire and Rutland raising schools' awareness in recognition and response to FGM prior to the school holidays. This included the LSCB supporting a YouTube FGM awareness video: <https://youtu.be/2XdHwHGJHck>
- A community engagement strategy including a mini 'Engagement Summit' involving members of the Somali community in Leicester.

Evidence suggests awareness and reporting of cases has improved as a result of these initiatives.

#### Prevent (Preventing Violent Extremism)

- The local Prevent website has been reviewed, revised and improved, following consultation with safeguarding leads across the sub-regional area. The link to this website is: <http://www.leicesterprevent.co.uk/>
- Local Authorities contributed to a partnership Prevent Officer post for the area
- Delivering training to staff working in communities, particularly in schools across Leicestershire & Rutland. In 2015/16 "Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent" (WRAP) training was delivered to over 1000 people in over 40 locations. This training has resulted in increased referrals to the Police Prevent team
- The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Boards Business Office has developed a webpage providing safeguarding signposting and links to training and the LLR Prevent Website: <http://lrsb.org.uk/prevent>

#### Transition between children and adult services

The Board explored the transition processes between child protection and adult services and was assured that appropriate and effective measures were in place to ensure successful transition and ongoing safety. Further work regarding children at risk of sexual exploitation and children supported by mental health services will be considered within the Board's priorities for 2016/17.

### Think Family approaches including Supporting Leicestershire Families and Changing Lives, Rutland

There is good evidence of partnership working to provide early intervention and support to better safeguard and support families across Leicestershire and Rutland.

Examples include:

- Midwives from the University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) ensuring that women identified as vulnerable during their pregnancy are appropriately referred for support and discussed with Leicestershire and Rutland Children's Social Care and relevant health staff by the 30th week of pregnancy. The UHL team received 815 such referrals during 2015/16.
- The Early Start Programme provided by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT). Working across Charnwood, it provides intensive health visiting support to vulnerable pregnant women and their partners (including those with a Learning Disability) who are first time parents, prior to 24 weeks pregnancy. The scheme is integrated into mainstream health visiting, Children's Centres and Early Help Services. Parents are reporting satisfaction with Children's Centre services that offer Early Help and support across Leicestershire and Rutland.
- A survey of parents during October to December 2015 shows that 74% of Leicestershire families and 75% of Rutland families who engage with the Children's Centres are reporting that their needs have been fully met.
- The Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF) and Changing Lives Rutland (CLR) services provide early intervention to families in need of support. A survey of parents who accessed these services between July-September 2015 showed that 98% of Leicestershire families and 96% of Rutland families reported improvements in their parenting confidence and capacity.

### Domestic Abuse

The Safeguarding Boards have scrutinised and challenged domestic abuse work as this is a key safeguarding risk area in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Examples of impact and outcomes include:

- There were more requests for support from the new domestic abuse and sexual violence support service: 778 calls to new helpline from Leicestershire & Rutland in 4 months (Dec 2015 to March 2016) compared with 408 in 8 months (April to November 2015) under previous arrangements.
- In the first 4 months of the new LLR support service, all Leicestershire and Rutland service users felt safer following support and 87.5% had experienced a reduction in violence following support.
- In Leicestershire information was shared with schools regarding domestic abuse in the homes of 360 children between September 2015 and March 2016 through Operation Encompass. The scheme is being considered further in Rutland.
- There was an increase in referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) regarding young people under 18 from Leicestershire & Rutland (7 last year to 11 this year).

- There were early signs of reduction in offending by priority domestic abuse perpetrators who had been worked with through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) framework.
- There was good attendance from all agencies at MARAC.
- Approximately 1,400 people across Leicestershire & Rutland were supported by domestic abuse support services including the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and outreach services.
- 396 cases were considered at MARAC compared to 336 in 2014.
- A service user panel is in place as part of the contract management of the new support services. The panel has fed their views into the progress of the LLR service, including areas for improvement, such as call answering and waiting times for therapeutic support.
- Service user feedback on the new United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA) services shows that 81% of service users surveyed feel their needs have been met. It also identified the need for joined up support for child secondary victims in Leicestershire & Rutland.
- Schools have given positive feedback about the Operation Encompass scheme in Leicestershire, and the additional information provided to support their pupils.
- The Domestic Abuse Champions in Leicestershire Children & Family services have welcomed the opportunity to develop practice with regards to work around domestic abuse.

### Priorities for 2016/17

The Joint Business Development Plan between the LRLSCB and LRSAB for 2016/17 identifies three key areas for improvement:

- Domestic Abuse – to be assured that there are robust and effective arrangements to tackle domestic abuse
- Mental Health and safeguarding risk – to be assured that Mental Health Services incorporate robust arrangements to reduce safeguarding risk to children and adults in particular areas: e.g. Suicide, Self-Harm, Emotional Wellbeing, Adolescent Mental Health, those supported through MCA/DoLS and the Learning Disability Pathway
- Prevent – to be assured that the Safeguarding element of the Prevent strategy is effective and robust across Leicestershire and Rutland.



## Priority 4:

### To be assured that our Learning and Improvement Framework is raising service quality and outcomes for vulnerable adults

During 2015/16, the LSCB SCR Subgroup has undertaken 3 Child Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and 2 other case enquiries that did not meet the criteria for SCRs.

The completion and publication of the SCRs has been delayed due to ongoing judicial processes.

The Board was engaged in 2 SCRs undertaken by other areas.

Work has continued to ensure the recommendations from the SCRs are communicated and have been embedded into frontline practice. To achieve this we have:

- Presented the lessons learned from SCRs at three LSCB-led learning events to frontline practitioners
- Ensured partner agencies have “sign off” of the relevant recommendations from the SCRs and submitted evidence of disseminating to frontline staff
- Published recommendations on the LSCB website
- Published recommendations in “Safeguarding Matters”
- Incorporated lessons and learning from both national and local SCRs and other reviews into themes which were considered when devising the LSCB Business Development Plan for 2016/17.

We have seen improvements in the performance of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) in reviewing child deaths within timescale.

The local CDOP covers Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and held 11 panels, reviewing 104 cases, in 2015/16. The membership has been reviewed (along with the terms of reference).

During 2015/16, 104 child death cases were reviewed of which 69 cases related to Leicestershire and Rutland.

Of those 69 cases:

- 12 were identified as having modifiable factors
- 10 were identified as having areas of learning (this includes learning identified prior to the case coming to panel).

All modifiable factors and learning are monitored in order to ascertain if there are emerging themes.

Listed below are the modifiable factors identified during 2015/16:

- Smoking by mother in pregnancy
- Smoking by parent/carer in household

- Accessing health care sooner
- Co sleeping
- Substance misuse (by parent)
- Domestic violence
- Consanguinity.

A key element of our Learning and Improvement Framework is the new Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework that has sought to provide a more holistic account of impact.

### **Neglect Task & Finish Group**

Neglect was identified as a feature in national and local SCRs, and locally in learning reviews and multi-agency audits, resulting in neglect being identified as a priority by the Leicester City LSCB and the Leicestershire & Rutland LSCB. A LLR Neglect Reference Group was established with representation from key agencies and services across the area.

The work completed has aimed to ensure that the profile of neglect is raised, that there is early recognition of neglect and that, where neglect is identified, the child protection or child in need plans are SMART and drift is avoided. The views of children and young people, as well as practitioners, were also sought and incorporated into the development of the resources on neglect, including through the VCS Reference Group.

During 2015, a dip-test and LSCB neglect deep dive audit took place.

In December 2015, a survey to ascertain front line practitioners' knowledge and confidence in identifying and assessing neglect was conducted to inform the development of the neglect strategy and toolkit. It found that out of the 96 surveys that were completed across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, 75% were completed by frontline workers. Confidence in identifying neglect was at 81%, but assessing levels of neglect was at 51%. A wide range of tools and guidance were used to inform assessments, but practitioners wanted a universal cross-agency toolkit and guidance.

A cross Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Task and Finish Group has developed the following:

- Neglect toolkit
- Neglect strategy
- Neglect vision
- Refreshed Neglect procedures.

The strategy, toolkit and updated practice guidance were all completed by the end of the business year with the following plans in place:

- Communication of the new neglect documents at the LLR Safeguarding Learning Event on 4th May 2016
- A formal LLR LSCBs Launch Event of the strategy, tool kit and updated procedure on 7th July 2016
- A further Frontline Practitioner survey on neglect.

During 2016/17 the Board will be:

- Monitoring neglect referrals on a quarterly basis to determine whether there is a rise in referral rates to both Early Help and Duty and Assessment Teams
- Developing qualitative tools that will include a feedback sheet to both practitioners and families when the assessment tool has been submitted along with referrals to Social Services either through Early Help or Duty and Assessment Teams.

### **Priorities for 2016/17**

Considerable progress has been made in this area, with a number of issues identified for further development. These would include issues identified from both national and local SCRs:

- Young people at risk of Suicide and Self-Harm
- Bruising to non-mobile babies
- Effective Information Sharing
- Case Supervision
- Vulnerable Looked after Children
- Transient families
- Domestic Abuse in families with children.



## Priority 5:

### To be assured that the workforce is fit for purpose

The numbers of allegations against adults who work with children referred to Leicestershire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) has remained consistent with previous years, with 248 referrals, 125 cases considered at strategy meetings, and 39 of these allegations considered substantiated. The local process has improved with increased confidence and experience across the partnership and 66% of allegations are now resolved at the first meeting resulting in a reduction in the number of strategy meetings required.

In 2015/16, in Rutland, 14 referrals were received by the LADO, down from 27 in 2014/15, and 5 of these were substantiated.

Training and workforce development has continued to be a key priority for the LRLSCB to ensure that staff are able to deliver safeguarding expectations with confidence and high levels of competence. The Board works with the Leicester City LSCB to provide a programme of multi-agency safeguarding training.

In 2015/16 1,600 delegate spaces were offered and 1,286 people participated in the 46 events in the programme across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland, with an overall attendance rate of 80%. In addition to this, an extra 140 delegates attended the L&R LSCB SCR event. Participation generally reflects the size of the relevant workforce in the partner organisation.

The number of events was lower than 2014/15 (65), as was the level of overall participation (1,661).

Levels of satisfaction were high, with participants identifying improvements in knowledge, skill and confidence arising from the programmed events; although, in some cases, this reduces after three months. Details are collated, analysed and included in quarterly update reports produced to the Subgroup by Voluntary Action Leicestershire (VAL).

- There was an increase in delegates from the wider Private, Voluntary & Independent (PVI) sector and also from the adult and wider workforce
- Learner's self-assessed impact provides strong evidence of the practical effect of the programme with 'Taking specific action in the workplace' an outcome reported by 65% of respondents.

As a result of Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) training, there is a more informed, knowledgeable and confident workforce in relation to safeguarding. Training participants report enhanced awareness of safeguarding good practice and an increase in skills and knowledge. This has been identified through information obtained from the inter-agency training data in relation to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) access to the training and its impact on knowledge, skills and confidence:

- 75% of the delegates attending the inter-agency training during Q4 stated that the Competency Framework has supported their role and identification of learning
- 71% confirmed reference is made to the Framework as part of their organisations' supervision process
- 71% of delegates attending inter-agency training reported improved knowledge of other roles and confidence to work with other agencies.

In 2015 the LSCB Learning Event, attended by 160 delegates, focused on Building Confidence in Practice and Learning Lessons from SCRs.

In Spring 2016, the LSCB Safeguarding Matters special edition publication focused upon Building Confidence in Practice.

During 2015/16, the LSCB Safeguarding Effectiveness Group (SEG) was consistently assured by SEG member representative of partner agencies that all caseloads that identify safeguarding children as a concern are allocated and managed.

Steps have been taken to embed the Safeguarding Competency Framework and there is evidence from most agencies that this is now well developed and informing the targeting of training. Performance monitoring by the Safeguarding Effectiveness Group has indicated that most agencies have embedded the Competency Framework but further assurance is required from the two County Councils in 2016/17.

With regard to caseload monitoring the SEG has been assured that all agencies have kept caseloads within acceptable levels.

### **Priorities for 2016/17**

The priorities under this heading for 2016/17 are:

- Assurance from the County Councils that their staff adhere to the requirements of the Competency Framework for safeguarding training
- Workforce has appropriate level caseloads and are well supported in safeguarding children and young people through reflective professional supervision
- Safeguarding training is relevant and effective in ensuring the workforce has appropriate skills and knowledge in working to safeguard children and young people.

## Business Plan Priorities 2016/17

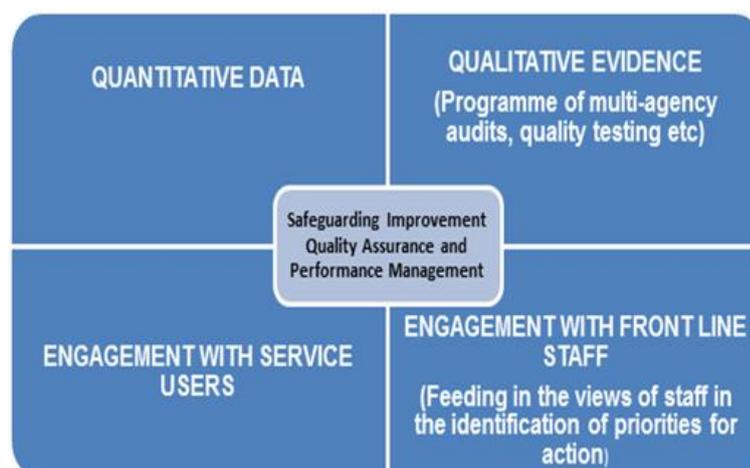
Within the broader core business of the LRLSCB the following specific priorities have been identified:

- Secure robust and effective arrangements to tackle **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Missing and Trafficking**
- To maximise the impact of **Learning from SCRs** and other reviews
- To champion and support the extension of **Signs of Safety (SoS)** across the Partnership and secure assurance of the effectiveness of multi-agency processes/working and evidence of positive impact for service users
- Be assured that **Thresholds for services** are understood across the partnership and applied consistently
- Be assured that **Early Help Services** are effectively coordinated across the LSCB Partnership and secure outcomes that reduce pressure on child protection and care services
- To be assured that the LLR **Neglect** strategy increases understanding, identification, risk assessment and management of Neglect and reduces prevalence in Leicestershire & Rutland.

The following joint priorities, with the LRSAB, have been identified:

- To be assured that there are robust and effective arrangements to tackle **Domestic abuse**
- To be assured that **Mental Health** Services incorporate robust arrangements to reduce **safeguarding risk** to children and adults in particular areas, including those supported through MCA/DoLS and the Learning Disability Pathway
- To be assured that the Safeguarding element of the **Prevent** strategy is effective and robust across Leicestershire and Rutland.

Against each of these priorities the Boards have identified key outcomes for improvement and the actions that will need to be taken over the next year to achieve these improved outcomes. The Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework for the Boards will be revised to ensure that they reflect the new Business Development Plans and enable ongoing monitoring of performance of core business that is not covered in the them. Quality Assurance and Performance Management will continue to be framed around our 'four-quadrant' model:



## Membership of the Leicestershire & Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) 2015/16

### Independent Chair

#### Statutory Members:

Borough and District Councils (represented by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council)  
 Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)  
 Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), East Leicestershire and Rutland  
 Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), West Leicestershire  
 Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company (DLNR CRC)  
 East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)  
 Lay Members (Two people: one from Leicestershire & one from Rutland)  
 Leicestershire County Council  
 Leicestershire County Council Lead Member  
 Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)  
 Leicestershire Police  
 National Probation Service (NPS)  
 Rutland County Council  
 Rutland County Council Lead Member  
 Schools and Colleges (Head teacher representatives from both Leicestershire and Rutland)  
 University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL)

#### Other Members:

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS)  
 Public Health  
 Voluntary Action LeicesterShire  
 Armed Forces – Kendrew Barracks

#### Professional Advisers to the Board:

Boards' Business Office Manager  
 Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children  
 Designated Nurse Children and Adult Safeguarding – CCG hosted Safeguarding Team  
 Legal Services for the Safeguarding Boards  
 Heads of Children's Safeguarding, Leicestershire County Council  
 Heads of Children's Safeguarding, Rutland County Council

NB: the local NHS England Area Team have informed local LSCBs that NHS England will only attend Boards where there are specific concerns that require NHS England oversight or action, for example where an improvement board is in place. At other times, NHS England will be represented by the Designated Professional from East Leicestershire and Rutland or West Leicestershire CCG utilising the clear communication routes back to NHS England.

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