



Leicestershire & Rutland
Safeguarding Children Partnership
Annual Report - 2022-23

Foreword

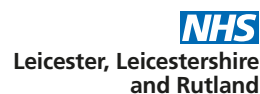
We are pleased to present this report of the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership that covers the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Over the year, as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the everyday work of organisations decreased, the partnership was able to return to more pre-pandemic practices. For example, we have increased the number of face-to-face training events offered. We also recognise that a more blended and flexible approach to learning is now more suitable and effective for a multi-agency workforce that continues to face significant capacity issues.

Our approach is system-led but child-focused. In responding to national reviews and local learning, we have increased our quality assurance work, with a view to further increasing the correlation with service improvement. As we enter the next year, we will continue to map how the outcomes of our procedural and audit activity directly benefits frontline practice and, in turn, directly impacts the lives of children and their families.

We want to thank all the dedicated workers and managers, whether frontline or in support roles, in organisations across Leicestershire & Rutland that are working to support the welfare and safety of children.

The Safeguarding Partners for Leicestershire & Rutland



“The Social Worker needs a medal! She has done so well and she gives our child chances and listens to him. She thinks about what our child needs. She gives him trust and he responds to that. The Social Worker has saved him.”

Leicestershire Parent/Carer

“The worker has been an absolute diamond. She has always been on the end of the phone. I have not felt like it’s been intrusive at all. She is just lovely”

Rutland Parent/Carer

The Partnership

The Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) brings together organisations across the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland with the vision:

“For children and young people in Leicestershire and Rutland to be safe, well and achieve their full potential”

The members of the partnership include the statutory safeguarding partners: Police, Local Authorities, and Integrated Care Board. For the beginning of the period this report covers, the Clinical Commissioning Groups for the area were statutory safeguarding partners, but these were replaced by Integrated Care Boards from July 2022.

The membership also includes other relevant agencies including schools, health agencies, probation and other organisations working with children. The full membership of the partnership can be found on the SCP website <https://lrsb.org.uk/scp-membership-list>.

The Partnership:

- Sets how organisations should work together to safeguard children
- Provides multi-agency training and development resources to support good safeguarding
- Tests how well organisations are working together and the difference this is making
- Reviews serious safeguarding incidents to identify improvements needed
- Uses learning and feedback to improve and develop how agencies work together to safeguard children.

During 2022-23, independent scrutiny was led by an Independent Advisor. The Independent Advisor for Leicestershire and Rutland was jointly appointed with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board. The Independent Advisor scrutinised the work and effectiveness of the partnership and provided an independent view into decisions regarding Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. For 2023-24, the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) and Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (SCPB) will appoint an Independent Chair.

This is the statutory report of the SCP outlining the work it has carried out from April 2022 to the end of March 2023.

For more information on how the SCP works please visit <https://lrsb.org.uk/lrscp>.



The work of the Partnership

The Priorities of the Partnership

The SCP worked with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board to identify shared priorities for 2022/23. Three of these priorities – Safeguarding Babies, Child Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and Safeguarding Children from Diverse Backgrounds – were continued from 2021/22. This was due to the continued national and local prevalence of these themes and the breadth of the work requiring completion to achieve an appropriate level of assurance.

The work on these priorities was embedded within the assurance, training, procedure and review work of the partnership outlined further in the following sections of this report.

Safeguarding Babies:

Improving how we work together with families before and after births to safeguard babies and seek assurance that multi-agency working with families to safeguard babies is effective.

Rationale (established 2021-22):

- Recent local and national case reviews as well as assurance work of the partnerships have highlighted safeguarding risks to babies
- National increase in number and proportion of serious safeguarding incidents that relate to baby deaths and harm to babies.
- Two national reviews, three local reviews, and three further rapid reviews regarding baby deaths, exploring shaken babies; contact and working with
- fathers/males; substance misuse; pre and post-birth planning; safer sleeping.
- Covid-19 response has affected services for expectant and new mothers and has been seen to cause additional stress in family environments, which can increase risk factors.

What we did:

Early in 2022/23 [ICON](#) was launched across the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. ICON is an evidenced-based programme focused on reducing abusive head trauma (AHT) triggered by crying. The mnemonic ICON outlines the key messages of the programme: **I**nfant crying is normal, **C**omforting methods can help, **I**t's **O**K to walk away, and **N**ever, ever shake a baby.

National ICON Week took place from 26th-30th September 2022 and was supported by the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships which included:

- Engaging fathers and male carers in [ICON](#) messages through promoting two [videos aimed at young fathers](#)
- Launching and publicising the Safeguarding Children Partnerships' [ICON web pages](#) which offer national and local resources to help parents cope with infants crying
- A radio campaign delivered by EAVA community radio using ICON messages aimed at members of our diverse community voiced in Somalian, Gujarati, Hindi

- Local midwives, health visitors and our named safeguarding GP being filmed giving out the timely touch point ICON messages in a short video which can be used to teach parents and multi-agency staff the importance of not shaking babies. This is unique to LLR and we aim to share this nationally on the ICON national website and with other ICB areas
- Social media communications about ICON week sent out across our partnership organisations
- Multi-agency training demonstrating the roll out of ICON across LLR and the targeting of more vulnerable parents with low birthweight and premature babies and when parents had substance misuse or parenting issues.

During ICON week, the ICON Resources webpage on the Leicestershire & Rutland website was accessed 144 times.

A request has been made for our [local ICON launch](#), led by the Integrated Care Board, to be promoted nationally.

Impact:

Measuring the impact of ICON is a key deliverable for our 2023-25 business plan.

We have received positive feedback from one of the families affected by Abusive Head Trauma who have been pivotal in supporting the design and roll out of ICON nationally.

Feedback has also been received from the ICON Founder and Chief Programme Advisor Dr Smith highly praising Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's approach:

“I am absolutely blown away by this! You have all done such an amazing job...There is so much to applaud here...The examples of good practice are so innovative and already embedded.”

ICON Founder and Chief Programme Advisor

“I cried for all that you are doing. That the ICON message is reaching all the touch points, and that it is in the red book. You have really nailed it and you have created all that I could have hoped for in Leicestershire and beyond.”

Parent representative for ICON



Child Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing:

Seek assurance that partnership working supports good mental health for children and that mental health and safeguarding are effectively addressed together.

Rationale (established 2021-22):

- Previous case reviews, assurance work and work with young people have identified the following which require further work and assurance
- Gap in joint working when children in need of safeguarding have been referred to mental health services
- Young people report mental health support needs not always well understood by schools (being addressed by Welfare Education Return training)
- Follow up to 2021 assurance work regarding safeguarding and CAMHS waiting lists
- Young people tell us that effective mental health support remains a high priority for them.
- Surveys and cases suggest ongoing Covid restrictions are having an impact on mental health of children and young people.
- There is ongoing work regarding design of services and pathways for child mental health that will link with safeguarding.

What we did:

Assurance was sought by the SCPs and, at the August 2022 meeting of the Planning and Delivery Group (PDG), a presentation was received regarding Children and Young People (CYP) Mental Health and Neuro Diverse (ND) Transformation from Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT). It was agreed that a forum for discussions to take place about child mental health, emotional wellbeing, and safeguarding, in a more in-depth manner would be useful.

Impact:

Meetings have since taken place between the PDG Chair and the Chairs of the new Children and Young People (CYP) Mental Health Integrated Collaborative Delivery Group to build links between the collaborative and the Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The collaborative has been established to empower local partners to work collectively towards the betterment of Children and Young People Mental Health pathways within the region.

Our 2023-25 business plan will continue to seek assurance that children subject to safeguarding arrangements and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are effectively safeguarded through effective multi-agency working.

Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents: Seek assurance that there is a clear governance and approach for safeguarding children from harm outside the home and that it is effective.

Rationale:

- Work to develop a life-stage approach to safeguarding children relating to extra-familial threat/harm outside the home.
- Ongoing concerns regarding a clear response to peer-on-peer sexual abuse
- Developing national approach regarding 'serious youth violence'

What we did:

The SCPs received an update from the LLR Child Criminal Exploitation Operations Group. The group continues to oversee the development of a Contextual Framework to provide Adolescent Safeguarding and promote awareness raising to prevent future harm. The group provided assurance that:

- They continue to oversee the development of a Contextual Framework to provide Adolescent Safeguarding and promote awareness raising to prevent future harm.
- This includes the development of a Community Safety Plan, which is overseen independently by our Safeguarding Units. This is a statutory document, which holds as much weight as a Child Protection Plan, which responds to worries and harm outside the home, within the context of where the harm occurs and transitions with the child after eighteen. This intensive targeted support will offer an alternative child protection plan for children at risk of extra familial harm.
- There is engagement with the DfE funded Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme.
- Children's Social Care have worked in collaboration with Leicestershire Police to develop a Protocol for Children in Custody. This will support a child's wellbeing, identify underlying vulnerabilities by information exchange and improve children's lived experience in being received into police custody.
- The group has representation within the Contextual Safeguarding Network for strategic leads.
- There is use of DfE Practice Principles to tackle exploitation and extra-familial harm to support a collaborative partnership response to safeguard adolescents.
- The Child Criminal Exploitation Operations Group has oversight of the progression of our partnership data set. This is supported by the Daily Risk Management Meeting (DRMM) and the Fortnightly Operational Review Meeting (FORM). The partnership is represented at these risk management meetings and need to be satisfied that all resources and opportunities have been utilised to improve safety and a reduction in risk.
- Progression tracking of high-risk cases is debated by the partnership and professional challenge is welcomed.
- There is a planned scoping exercise to map the existing safeguarding response to Extra-Familial Harm provided by the local hub. This will also consider the interlinked agency pathways across the partnership to services that protect and support Adolescent Safeguarding. This will offer a coordinated approach across statutory and support services to implement early intervention and prevention programmes.
- A new quality assurance framework has been developed to not only analyse the data sets and indicators

to understand trends and themes, but to also monitor the quality of partnership risk management meetings. This will provide both reassurance and quality assurance that best practice is demonstrated in both supporting victims and utilising harm reduction approaches to challenge harmful behaviours.

- In response to our Missing children, we continue to offer independent return interviews. This work is quality assured through dip sampling Return Interview documentation. Diagnostic work is being undertaken in relation to the analysis of nil returns and how we respond to the unmet need of those children that for whatever reason do not engage with interviews. We continue to capture their voice and circumstances of the missing episodes, by trusted adults advocating for them.
- Becoming a trauma informed partnership will assist in early identification of our vulnerable children, improve response time and overall outcomes for children.
- A legacy from the Harm outside the Home DfE Project is the www.childexploitationeastmidlands.org.uk website, which the SCP supported in its development. The site aims to provide schools a one stop access point to raise awareness and encourage working together to prevent child exploitation and abuse. A trauma-informed toolkit is available to education to assist in recognising the signs associated with childhood trauma and adverse childhood experience. The site also signposts to local services and multi-agency training.

Impact:

Whilst work has been undertaken locally, there is ongoing work to be done, particularly around putting in place a strategic plan for the local approach to safeguarding children from extra-familial threat. The Safeguarding Children Partnerships will, throughout 2023-25, continue to seek assurance that local safeguarding partners are working together to effectively safeguard children from extra-familial threat. This will include supporting a new regime of multi-agency audit work.



Safeguarding Children from Diverse backgrounds:

Understand and improve how well partners work together with children and families from diverse backgrounds.

Rationale (established 2021-22):

- The SCPs do not have information on whether the ethnic or cultural background of a child or other diversity factors have an impact on how well agencies work together with children and their families to safeguard children.

What we did:

A task and finish group was set up to take this work forward, chaired by an independent expert. The following work was completed:

- A local agreement of the definition of “cultural competence” was confirmed
- A survey of practitioners took place, including voluntary and community sectors
- Practitioner focus groups were held
- Learning from reviews and local data was collated

An overview of workstreams, strategies, initiatives, and resources across the partnerships that relate to safeguarding children from black and minoritised communities was identified

Quantitative data was provided by all three Local Authorities, Police, Integrated Care Board (ICB), and Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse (DSVA) services.

Impact:

Consideration of race and cultural competence is now embedded in all audits and reviews across the Safeguarding Children Partnerships. Training that considers safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds was delivered to 520 delegates across the partnerships through 25 different training sessions, whilst a further 432 people watched relevant training videos. The partnerships recognise that Safeguarding Children from Diverse backgrounds needs to be an ongoing priority and that the task and finish group was just the start. The business plan priority for 2023-25 includes improved understanding of the role of immigration status, culture, faith, and parenting.

Effective Safeguarding in independent and out of school settings:

Work with faith groups, independent schools, community organisations and other settings to support them to play an effective role in safeguarding children.

Rationale:

- SCP consideration of Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) reports and local LADO and national data identify the need and opportunity for further work with religious institutions, alternative education and other out-of-school settings to support robust safeguarding.
- SCP initial conversation with independent schools identified the need to develop specific ongoing engagement approach.

What we did:

An independent schools forum was set up during 2022/23. The forum allows independent schools to consider topics specific to them such as safeguarding across borders, the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse on residential schools, and guardian arrangements.

A multi-agency task and finish group has been set up, chaired by Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs), to progress the other key deliverables in this objective focusing on out of school settings, small and community organisations. This work will continue into the 2023-25 business plan.

Impact:

The independent schools forum is well attended with around 20 delegates per meeting. One outcome was a request that social care nationally allow more time for referrals to be completed before timing out. This request was raised at the National Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager Network and local areas agreed to consider making the required changes.

Training Delivery numbers realised towards priorities:

Safeguarding Babies: 8 sessions were delivered to 465 attendees

Child Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing: 15 sessions were delivered to 353 attendees

Keeping Adolescents Safe/Supporting Safe Adolescents: 18 sessions were delivered to 472 attendees

Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds: 25 sessions were delivered to 520 attendees

Effective Safeguarding in independent and out of school settings: in terms of action taken, a more extensive mailing list has been developed. We have trained practitioners in independent and out of school settings in our business-as-usual safeguarding training as typically expected.

For further information, please see the Training section below.

Combined number of people who attended training or watched a training video against the SCP Business priorities:

Priorities	Trained	Watched a Training Video	Total
Safeguarding Babies	465	1054	1519
Child Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing	340	432	772
Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents	472	75	547
Safeguarding Children from Diverse Backgrounds	520	432	952
Effective Safeguarding in Independent and Out of School Settings			0
	Total of professionals benefited from SCP training		3790

Quality assurance and service improvement

The SCP has a Quality Assurance Framework shared with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board. This can be found here <https://lrsb.org.uk/lrscp>.

During the year the SCP reviewed comparative data for the safeguarding system against other areas of the country. End of year data had not been considered by the time this report was completed and is not able to be shared. It will be considered early in the next business year.

Self-Assessment

During 2022-23 the safeguarding partners and specific relevant agencies carried out a self-assessment of their safeguarding effectiveness. The Section 11 is designed for agencies to provide assessment of their current performance in several key areas in relation to safeguarding children and to provide a reasonable comparison with results from the previous two years.

Following improvement work in the year almost all partner agencies provided some evidence that they were effective across all areas in the assessment:

- Strategic and Governance Arrangements
- Impact on Safeguarding Considered in Service Change
- Workforce Capacity and Resilience
- Engagement with Children
- Children Affected by Domestic Abuse

Early analysis indicates that the assessment did not directly identify any areas for significant work across partners or on a multi-agency basis. Where agencies judged themselves as not meeting the standard for being 'fully effective' against an area of assessment, additional information was required to indicate how they plan to achieve full effectiveness and by when. All agencies were asked for their plans for how they would improve effectiveness. Returns will be fully analysed and presented to the SCPs at the start of the 2023/24 business year.



Audits

A multi-agency audit focusing on Electively Home Educated (EHE) children was undertaken during 2022/23. This group of children appears to have increased post pandemic and, given learning from national high-profile cases, a Leicestershire Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review and a Leicester Serious Case Review, it was agreed that an audit to consider visibility of children in this cohort would be valuable.

The audit considered how well information is being shared across agencies and whether there are missed opportunities to support children in this cohort. 20 cases each were considered for Leicestershire and Leicester and 10 cases for Rutland. The scope of the audit was one calendar year from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

Findings suggested a number of areas of development including:

- Gaining an understanding of current information sharing practice within and across agencies across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland linked to Education, Health and Care (EHC)
- Developing improved and systematic information sharing to notify key agencies that a child has become Electively Home Educated, taking account of any information governance issues and current practice, including use of the Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) appropriately
- Reviewing how information is captured in the process of EHE starting, to include potential risk factors increasing a child's future vulnerability when children are referred to Inclusion teams
- Considering any awareness raising work that is required, including training, to support professional understanding of the impact on children of their EHE status
- Engagement work with parents to understand barriers to engagement with Education services including any method to establish links to Early Help offer or improve cooperation
- Considering how EHE children are offered the opportunity of seeing the School Nurse/11+ Teen Health Service routinely as part of a targeted support offer.

A task and finish group will be set up to complete the required work.

A deep-dive multi-agency audit, focusing on Pre-Birth Planning, was due to be completed before the end of 2022-23. This theme was agreed to support the Safeguarding Babies business priority and in light of recent learning from local Rapid Reviews. Whilst the audit itself was completed within the year, the multi-agency Audit Discussion Day, where analysis and key learning is identified, leading to recommendations and an audit report has yet to take place. Timescales have been affected by agency capacity, partly due to the increased programme of audit activity carried out this year (see below). This work will be completed early in the next year.

In addition to in-depth audits, a programme of 3-monthly dip-sample audits was set up to enable the Safeguarding Children Partnerships to frequently provide assurance and evidence current multi-agency working. The first dip-sample audit focused on repeat referrals, and the second is due to consider contacts with children experiencing mental ill health.

As requested by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, there was a Local Authority only audit, facilitated by the SCPs, to provide assurance that referrals are not deemed malicious without a full and thorough multi-agency assessment.

Other assurance work

'Keep in Touch' Assurance Meetings

The SCP holds a monthly 'Keep in Touch' assurance meeting with Leicester SCPB. The purpose of the meetings is to enable senior safeguarding leads to share intelligence and joint oversight of the ability of LLR multi-agency children's safeguarding services to maintain statutory functions in relation to safeguarding children, to share information and data and to provide a timely response to emerging safeguarding issues with partnership support. The meetings consider operational matters affecting safeguarding services, with a particular focus on workforce capacity and wellbeing. During the year the group has discussed the following areas of concern:

- Significant workforce capacity concerns across a number of agencies, regarding recruitment and retention of staff, but also a loss of experience through staff turnover and significant use of agency workers
- Changes in staffing may impact upon agencies trying to contact individual workers for information sharing.

In response to these concerns the SCP has supported open reflection and conversations regarding the impact of workforce gaps on services and how this is impacting safeguarding through the Keep in Touch meeting and at the main Partnership meetings. They have gained assurance that safeguarding continues to be prioritised across all agencies.

The SCP also asked the Independent Advisor to carry out an in-depth analysis of workforce capacity across the partnership. Independent scrutiny questions were sent out to individual agencies and the collated results were disseminated in October 2022. It was found that workforce capacity is affecting levels of support that can be provided, but safeguarding children is being prioritised across services and can be sustained. Lower risk cases may not be receiving as good a service as before and communication between organisations may be suffering. Also, a lack of access to early support appears to be impacting pressure on some acute services. All organisations reported that they are providing management oversight and availability to support staff and ensure appropriate prioritisation. Most organisations have plans in place to address staffing gaps in the short term, including innovative approaches to recruitment and providing ongoing support. All organisations reported they are communicating with partners to aid understanding. There are approaches in place to hear from children in many organisations and agencies are responding to this. Children are reporting room for improvement.

The SCP Planning & Delivery Group will continue to monitor workforce issues, via the Keep in Touch Meeting, with a particular focus on the effect on the lived experience for children and families, longer-term plans for workforce stability and considering innovations and solutions adopted elsewhere in the country.

An Operational Performance Group has been formed. It feeds into the LLR SCP Audit & Assurance Group, with a standing item on the agenda. Whilst the monthly Keep In Touch meetings are more operational to unpick practice issues and are more strategic, the Operational Performance Group meetings evaluate multi-agency working.

Information Sharing Agreement

The local Information Sharing Agreement of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards was updated throughout 2022/23 and [re-published](#) in April 2023.

Internal Quality Assurance Processes

The Audit and Assurance Group (AAG) sought assurance from partner agencies around their internal quality assurance processes. The aim was to provide a picture of activity that agencies have completed over the previous twelve months, giving an overview of what the key successes have been, what are the areas for development and any key actions for the forthcoming year linked to the business plan priorities.

It was positive to note that agencies reported the dissemination of learning from reviews and audits internally through a number of different briefing methods. Additionally, examples were shared of learning workshops to support frontline practitioners to strengthen safeguarding practice.

The group recognised that, given the key role schools play in safeguarding, a stronger connection between the AAG and Education is required. Options are being explored to create links to quality assurance work focused on safeguarding taking place in local schools.

Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centre (PSARC)

We have improved engagement with the East Midlands Children and Young People's Sexual Assault Service (EMCYPSAS). It raised concerns with the LLR Safeguarding Children Partnerships to ensure that EMCYPSAS is included in strategy discussions for children and young people who have experienced sexual assault.

Between October 2022-January 2023, EMCYPSAS received 103 Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland invites to strategy discussions which was a significant increase on previous engagement.

The impact of this work is enabling an increased number of children and young people who have experienced sexual assault to access the full range of sexual health screening, counselling and follow up, including psychosocial therapy, and contact with a Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CHISVA).

The requirement to refer children and young people who have experienced sexual assault to the EMCYPSAS has been incorporated into LLR SCP procedures and, together with briefings for staff, this will support maintaining this improved response.



Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures

The partnership has ensured procedures are in place for multi-agency safeguarding in line with Working Together 2018 and has specifically revised the following procedures in response to learning from local and national reviews and assurance processes:

- Children and Young People go Missing from Home or Care
- Children and Families Moving Across Local Authority Boundaries
- Bruising, Marks, or Injury of Concern in Pre-Mobile Babies and Non-Independently Mobile Children
- Multi-Agency Management of Medically Unexplained Symptoms, Perplexing Presentations and Fabricated or Induced Illness
- Child Exploitation, CSE and Assessment of Risk Outside the Home (Contextual Safeguarding)
- Bullying
- Children of Parents with Learning Disabilities
- Children of Parents who Misuse Substances
- E-Safety: Children Exposed to Abuse through the Digital Media
- Gang Activity, Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Affecting Children
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Safeguarding Children Vulnerable to Violent Extremism (PREVENT)
- Underage Sexual Activity
- Agency Roles and Responsibilities
- Allegations Against Persons who Work with Children
- Child Exploitation, CSE and Assessment of Risk Outside the Home (Contextual Safeguarding)
- Domestic Abuse
- Pre-Birth and Post Birth Planning
- Self-Harm and Suicidal Behaviour

The SCP procedures can be found online: <https://lrsrb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

A full list of new chapters and amendments made can be found on the '[Amendments](#)' page of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships Procedures Manual.

If you want to sign up for alerts regarding SCP procedure updates, please click [here](#).

Training

The SCP's training co-ordination and delivery function is shared with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board to support consistent and effective partnership working.

We provided training resources and events in support of our priorities as well as other areas identified in a training needs assessment with partners, identifying other key areas including missing children and young carers.

We continued to use a more blended approach to learning, incorporating video resources and resource packs alongside online training sessions. We also returned to more face-to-face training following the pandemic.

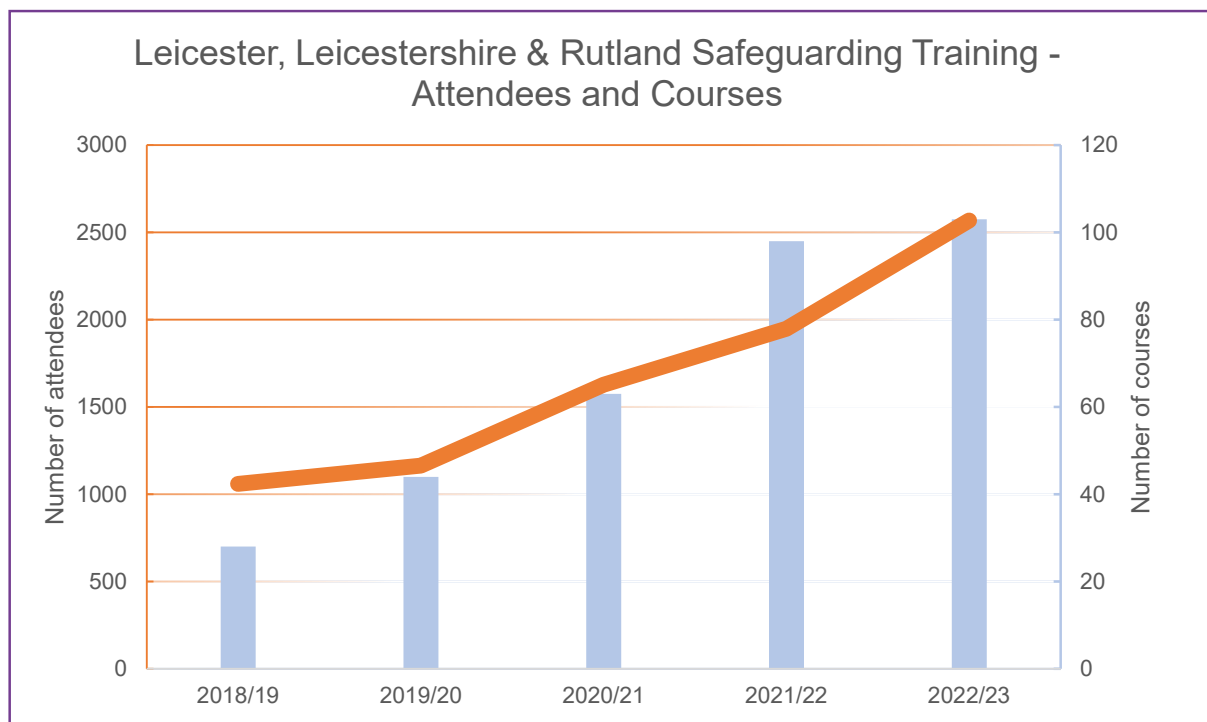
Resources

The [LLR SCPs' YouTube channel](#) continues to develop a bank of safeguarding videos that capture presentations from multi-agency training events and other resources that can be utilised by partners for learning and development – for example, in single agency training and supervision.

A regular Trainers' Network is facilitated, monthly email briefings are disseminated and regular [Safeguarding Matters newsletters](#) are published. As of this year, we have also introduced Safeguarding Matters Live (see below). During 2022-23, 167 additional people signed up to the Safeguarding Matters distribution list.

Training Delivery

Overall training was delivered to 2,569 individuals over 103 training events this year. The chart identifies a continued increase in numbers attending SCP training on previous years.

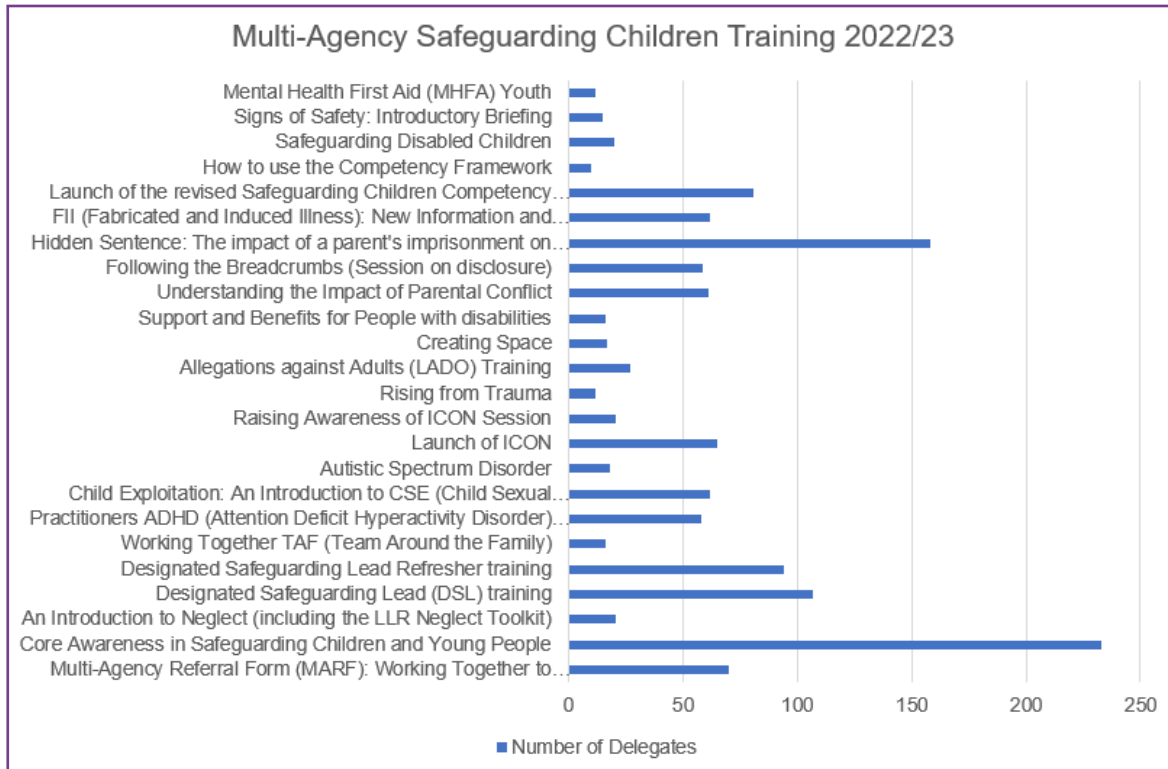


Alongside this increase, some training events did have to be cancelled in January/February 2023 due to low numbers and uptake. Overall, the cancellation rate is lower than in the previous year. Since re-establishing face-to-face training, it has been found that there is a better uptake of this training in comparison to virtual training. It is reported that cancelled places on training are often due to workload.

During 2022/23 a total of 1,315 delegates attended our regular multi-agency safeguarding children training. The generic safeguarding courses – for example, Core Safeguarding and Designated Safeguarding Lead training – often book up quickly, indicating both interest and need.

The LLR SCP Multi-Agency Learning & Development Group supported the content and delivery of a new project about the ‘Impact of Imprisonment on the Family and Children’. This project had a launch event at City Hall in Leicester and a planned programme of training continues to be delivered. Six sessions have been delivered and there are others planned.

Following the review and relaunch of the Safeguarding Children Competency Framework (LLR), a session ‘How to use the Competency Framework’ has been developed, which had its first session in March 2023.



The delivery and support of two big conferences was not possible this year compared to last year, due to strikes and other sectoral balances. It was possible to support some larger events around policy and guidance change, such as 'Missing: Raising Awareness of the Missing from Home Joint Protocol', and the extension of the use of the Operation Encompass platform in the Autumn of 2022. Also, support was given to the 'Looked after Children (LAC) Health Summit 2022' and 'Young Carers' training as well as Leicester City and Leicestershire & Rutland 'Parental Conflict' Training.

In addition to our regular training, the following larger events and conferences were facilitated, with a further 1,254 delegates attending:

Conferences Facilitated by Multi-Agency Learning & Development Group During 2022/23		
Conferences	Number	Total attendees
Missing from Home Joint Protocol	2	77
Looked After Children Health Summit	1	45
Supporting Families – Reducing the Impact of Parental Imprisonment	1	50
Safeguarding Matters Online Briefing	2	789
Learning from Reviews: Baby's first Home (womb)	1	108
Learning from Reviews: Baby's first Home (womb) (film played as trainer unavailable)	1	95
Young Carer's Awareness Training	2	90
		1,254

This year [Safeguarding Matters Live](#) was launched. These are live online briefings for all staff across the children and adults multi-agency partnerships. They share learning from reviews and audits, procedure and guidance updates, and resources to support practice. The June 2022 briefing was attended by 289 delegates with the December 2022 briefing attendance increasing to over 500 delegates. The slides from the events are made available via our website and sessions are available to watch on the Safeguarding Children Partnerships' YouTube Channel.

The Multi-Agency Learning & Development Group also supported the advertising and booking of the trauma-informed training programme designed and delivered by Barnardo's and funded by the local Violence Reduction Network. In addition, the group supported Disability Allowance Training by the Department of Work and Pensions Team, as well as promoting the 'What is Adult Safeguarding?' sessions run by the local Safeguarding Adults Boards.

Training Impact

"Brilliant session – very informative and good group for interactions and discussions."

"The training was very informative, and I now have more knowledge about Neglect and how the neglect toolkit is used."

Feedback from delegates on Neglect training

737 delegates completed pre- and post-evaluation forms. Professionals are asked to rate their own knowledge, skills and confidence before and after the training sessions and to set themselves three key actions which they will put into practice. These key actions are considered during impact evaluations, which explore how knowledge has been used in day-to-day work. Additionally, 88 delegates filled in an evaluation form for the Learning from Reviews events and 336 evaluations were completed for Safeguarding Matters Live.

We want to improve our understanding of access to and impact of SCP training resources to enable us to focus on providing effective training and learning resources that support changes in practice. To do this we are in the process of commissioning a learning management system that will work with our continued blended approach. The learning management system was due to be implemented during 2022-23; it has been delayed to accommodate further exploration of the business model and effective implementation.

The reach of some of our training videos is set out below:

The number of times the training videos being fully watched by professionals:

Name of Category	Name of Video	Total seen by
ICON		560
	Full Launch Recording	165
	Never Ever Shake a Baby – Morning	127
	Never Ever Shake a Baby – Home from Work	95
	LLR – ICON Touchpoint 1	54
	LLR – ICON Touchpoint 2	119
Safeguarding Matters		559
	Safeguarding matters online recording December 2022	171
	Safeguarding Children Updates	43
	Dr Alun Elias – FII	85
	Fire Safety Hoarding	35
	Nigel's Story	24
	Safer Sleeping for babies	9
	Myth of Invisible Men	42
	Safeguarding matters online recording June 2022	150
Competency Framework	Launch of Revised Safeguarding Children Competency Framework	382

MARF – Thresholds		66
Parents Guide to CE Video / 2022-2023 hits		75
FII		200
	FII New Information and Procedure Change	98
	FII New Information and Procedure Training	17
	Dr Alun Elias – FII (Safeguarding Matters Live)	85
LCC Young Carers	LCC Young Carers	432
Adolescent Neglect 2022-23 Hits		20
Learning From Reviews		62
	Babies' First Home Womb	21
	Babies' First Home Womb Edited	41
	Total Reach:	2356

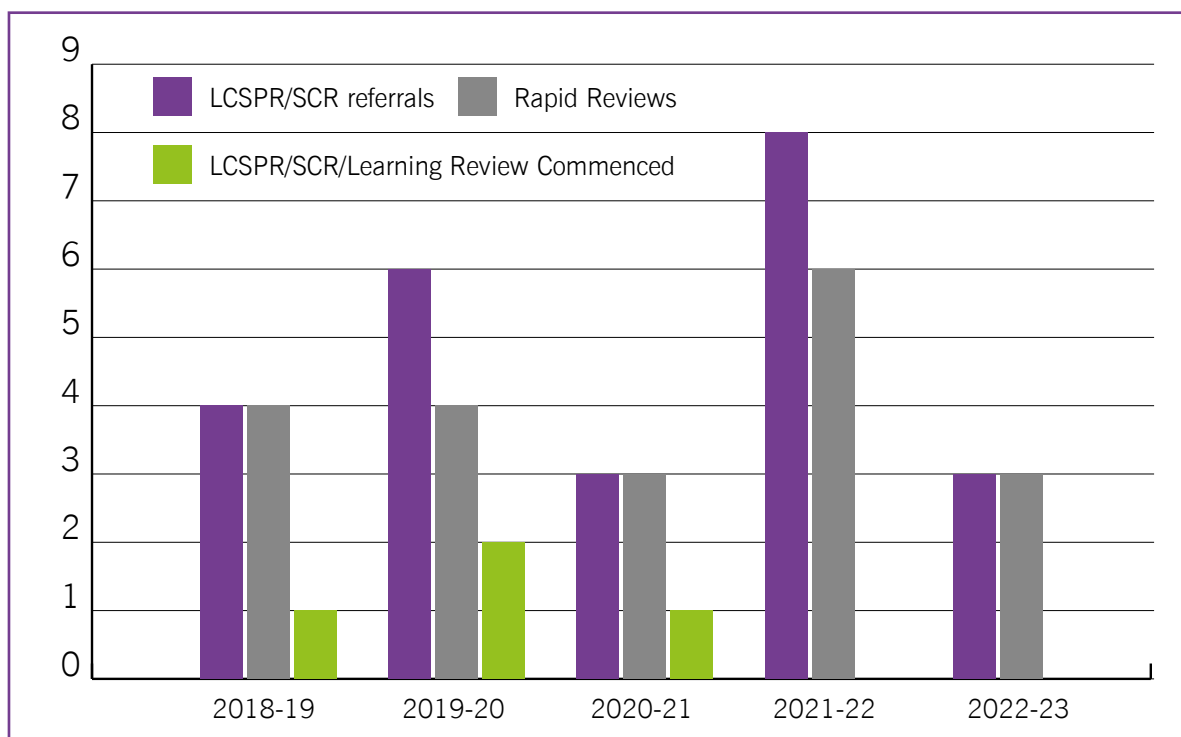


Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Local Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The partnership assesses Serious Safeguarding Incidents as defined by Working Together 2018 and decides whether a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR), in order to identify how to improve safeguarding responses in future, is required.

The Partnership carried out three rapid reviews following a serious incident notification in the period of this report. One Rapid Review was carried out by a sub-regional SCP. As shown in the chart, this number is down from eight carried out in 2021-22 but more in line with the three completed in 2020-21. The Safeguarding partners will monitor numbers to identify any longer-term trends. The peak in 2020-21 could be linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.



The partnership was able to identify learning to improve safeguarding systems from all of the Rapid Reviews. The partnership identified no further learning was to be gained from further review of any of these cases and therefore no Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews were required. This view was supported by the Independent Advisor to the Partnership and by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

Two Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, commenced in previous years, continued to be worked on in 2022-23. One was published in August 2022. It was published on both the SCP website, where it will remain for one year, and on the NSPCC national review repository. The other Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review is due to be published later in 2023.

These Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have taken longer than the statutory six months to complete for the following reasons:

- Commencing reviews was delayed by finding availability for meetings across partners, agreeing an approach regarding the reviewer and commissioning a reviewer.
- The reviewer identified the need to speak to professionals who worked directly with the children and their families to fully understand the case and learning, which has been delayed awaiting decisions regarding prosecution.
- Criminal processes have also delayed speaking to families.

Of the five children considered as both subjects of Rapid Reviews and LCSPRs under way during 2022/23:

- Four (80%) were female and one (20%) male.
- Three (60%) were of White British ethnicity and two (40%) of mixed heritage.
- Three (60%) were babies, one (20%) was a child and one (20%) was a teenager.

In line with the national picture, children under 12 months of age continue to account for the majority of notifications, which links to our continued business priority around safeguarding babies.

The partnership has continued to develop approaches to improve quality and timeliness of rapid reviews. Local agencies worked well to continue to contribute to rapid reviews and the ongoing Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews whilst facing continued resource challenges.

In addition, the rapid reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have identified good individual and multi-agency working by many organisations to prioritise, see and respond to children at risk of harm.

The reviews also identified the following key areas:

- Recognition and response to the vulnerability of babies, including unborn babies, via the pre-birth process
- Continued work with parents and consistent and persistent messaging around safer sleeping
- Increased professional curiosity around parental mental ill health, alcohol and substance misuse, particularly when the main source of information is self-reporting
- Increased awareness of the complex impact that ethnicity can have for both adults and children and how this is linked to engagement with services
- Improved confidence in recognising and responding to potential Perplexing Presentations and Fabricated and Induced Illness.

In response to this learning from reviews the following action has been undertaken:

- The LLR SCP “Pre-Birth and Post Birth Planning” procedure has been further updated and strengthened.
- LLR Pre-Birth Guidance for Local Authorities is being produced. The multi-agency assessment document development will be influenced by the National Research in Practice work, which all three Local Authorities across LLR are part of. This group will conclude in July 2023. The “Developing pre-birth assessment practice: Change Project 2023” will develop tools and guidance which can be used nationally and across LLR.
- Multi-Agency training sessions on “Baby’s First Home” were delivered.
- 7-Minutes Briefings were published on “Safeguarding un/born babies” and Safer Sleeping.
- An LLR Safer Sleeping Risk Assessment Tool is being produced and is due to be launched in Autumn 2023.
- Joint work was completed with drug and alcohol services to strengthen a key leaflet on reducing the risk to children in households where there is parental substance misuse.
- The LLR SCP “Children of Parents who Misuse Substances” is being reviewed and updated, in consultation with drug and alcohol services.
- Learning from reviews is being fed into ongoing work around the Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds business priority.
- The significant update to the “Multi-Agency Management of Medically Unexplained Symptoms, Perplexing Presentations and Fabricated or Induced Illness” procedure was promoted via multi-agency training sessions.

Learning is shared with practitioners across organisations through multi-agency training, briefings and learning events, including to communicate updated guidance and changes in procedures. Also, the SCP communicates learning to the partnership workforce through the Safeguarding Partnerships’ [Safeguarding Matters newsletter](#) and live events, the LLR Safeguarding Digest and through ‘[7-Minute Briefings](#)’, which are designed to convey key messages from reviews and encourage managers and workers to reflect on their practice.

Action plans are in place to respond to and monitor areas of learning from reviews.

The partnership continues to develop its approach to rapid reviews and these have become a useful tool to identify learning swiftly and ensure action can be taken more quickly to respond to matters arising from serious safeguarding incidents.

National Reviews

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's "Child Protection in England: National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson" was published in May 2022. It sets out recommendations and findings for national government and local safeguarding partners to protect children at risk of serious harm.

In September 2002, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published two Panel Briefings on "Bruising in non-mobile infants" and "Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse".

In October 2022, the Phase 1 report of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's "Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings" was published. The Phase 2 report followed in April 2023.

The Safeguarding Partners considered each of these publications in turn and took action and received assurance where required, including:

- Local templates for Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have been updated to ensure that protected characteristics of each family member, along with details of the whole family are recorded, to ensure that families' diverse needs, experiences and wider family networks are identified and analysed appropriately.
- Independent scrutiny of workforce capacity across the partnership took place.
- Following the reviews into Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes's deaths, one of the identified learnings was that the agencies involved should have been more robust in their response to contacts and concerns raised by family members or anonymous sources. The SCP sought assurance from our Local Authority partners in response to a request issued by the National Panel:

'All Safeguarding Partners should assure themselves that referrals are not deemed malicious without a full and thorough multi-agency assessment, including talking with the referrer, and agreement with the appropriate manager'.

Each Local Authority locally completed an internal audit to assure itself and the SCP. They considered 15 contacts each, which were received via the 'front door' from source Anonymous/Family within the previous six months.

The Local Authorities reported the following:

- Generally, the dip sample evidenced a positive picture with partner agency information considered and appropriate action taken resulting in the right services for children and young people.
- Information and discussions were held with parents to gain further information where required and appropriate and in the majority of these cases children were also spoken to, with information sought from them regarding their day-to-day experiences.
- The audit has highlighted that there is a need to focus on strengthening manager rationale for case closure.

- The local LLR Pre-Mobile baby procedure has been regularly reviewed over the last few years and was last updated in June 2022. The name of the procedure was changed at that point to "Bruising, Marks, or Injury of Concern in Pre-Mobile Babies and Non-Independently Mobile Children", as previously the word "bruising" did not feature. This improves searching for the procedure by practitioners.

- Assurance was provided that Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in Leicestershire & Rutland do involve local specialist domestic abuse services, where domestic abuse is present (either current or non-recent).
- The local SCP Domestic Abuse procedure was revised and relaunched.
- The Phase 1 report into children with learning disabilities identified two urgent actions which were sent to directors of children's services across the country with an expectation that they respond and bring the actions to SCPs. The first action was around undertaking Quality and Safety Reviews for all children with complex needs and disabilities currently living within placements with the same registrations to ensure they are in safe, quality placements. The second action asked for a review of all information on any LADO referrals, complaints and concerns over the last 3 years relating to the workforce in such establishments.
- The SCP received Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council's audits. These reports provided assurance to the partnership that no safeguarding concerns had been identified in respect of the children from Leicestershire and Rutland placed in qualifying dual residential special schools and children's homes or by the Local Authorities hosting the establishments over the past three years. The core learning related to young people in long term residential educational placements was shared with SEND boards in each Local Authority.
- The Dynamic Support Pathway was first launched across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland in December 2021. It is a pathway developed to provide support for individuals (all age) with a learning disability, autism or both who are deteriorating in their health and well-being whilst living in the community. Following the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's publication, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) published new guidance in November 2022 and this contained additional recommendations and new minimum standards. NHSEI published their final policy in January 2023 with an aim to launch the new pathway by May 2023. As a result of this, a full benchmarking exercise was delivered across LLR to identify areas of improvement/new processes required. A multi-agency Task and Finish Group was established to design new processes and documentation required. People with lived experience and representatives from Parent Carer Forums have been involved in developing this pathway from the start and will continue to be part of the team to monitor and review the processes going forward. LLR are now ready to launch the new pathway.
- Diverting Children and Young People with Learning Disabilities and Autism from the risk of Sexual and Criminal Exploitation

The ICB and Barnardo's launched a new initiative aimed to support early identification of children and young people with learning difficulties and autism who are referred to the Dynamic Support Register (DSR) and who may be at risk of being drawn into child sexual exploitation and child exploitation.

This work has included an Information Sharing Agreement and questions added to the Dynamic Support Register Multi-Agency Assessment Template that identify risk of child exploitation.

If response to the child exploitation questions raise significant concern, a Child Exploitation Risk Assessment is completed and a referral to Children's Social Care, as per the LLR SCP Procedures.

Where answers to the risk of exploitation questions raise concern that the child/young person's interests or social life may potentially expose the child/young person to a risk of exploitation, a Barnardo's Key Worker contacts the Vulnerability Hub and supports opportunities for diverting exposure to potentially harmful situations with the child/young person and parents and carers.

The final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) was published in October 2022. The national recommendations were discussed by the SCP and actions will be progressed by the Planning & Delivery Group.

How feedback from children and families has informed our work and influenced service provision

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the SCP has struggled to maintain its Young People's Advisory Group (YPAG). The membership of this group is drawn from other youth groups, such as the Children in Care Council and Youth Council. Therefore, it is challenging to engage with young people who are already giving up their time for other forums.

Children and young people will be invited to sit on a specific interview panel for the role of Independent Chair for the SCPs.

The SCP does want to ensure it is having meaningful engagement with young people that makes a difference to the work of the partnership. Therefore, the focus is on drawing upon existing participation work within organisations across the partnership, to understand what young people are saying about safeguarding and how partners are hearing and responding to the voice and lived experience of children and young people. This will reduce duplication and consultation fatigue, and where the partnership requires specific participation work this will be carried out through working with existing participation groups.

This year it has been agreed that the LLR SCP Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Reference Group will join up with adults' organisations to form a VCS forum. This will broaden the scope of engagement, as many groups cross over between children's and adults' services.

An example of our partners using feedback from children and families to influence service provision is in the establishment of the Teen Health Service. There were consultation processes in 2021 in both Leicestershire and Rutland (as each has their own Teen Health Service). The feedback from these consultations was used to develop the service models, with the services being launched in 2022.

"She has supported us through our toughest challenges; sometimes advising, sometimes listening and sometimes just being present in the moment. She always followed through with what was best for the family and most of all gave us hope that things would eventually get better. She has made a real difference in our lives and today, with her tireless support and dedication, we got the outcome we wanted."

Family feedback about the support offered from a Leicestershire Children & Family Wellbeing Service Worker

"Understanding the impact this has had on all the children has made me more determined to get the help I need. I love them and want them to have a dad they can be proud of".

Feedback from a Father following work with the Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Team

In Rutland, consultations with schools, pupils, and parents highlighted what the priorities are for the people of Rutland and their aim is to tailor support services to reflect the current demands from young people. In Leicestershire, the consultation was shared on the County Council's website, promoted by email to schools, with local communities through social media including Twitter and Facebook. It consisted of a variety of questionnaires and surveys, determined by the demographics of the consultation groups, workshops with professionals, staff and Head teachers and one-to-one interviews with parents. The consultation was also shared with voluntary and community groups through the Council's Communities teams and with Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group, chair of Leicestershire Parents SEND Hub and Leicestershire Adoption and Fostering Group. Feedback received from parents and carers, professionals working with children and families in Social Care, Education and Youth Justice was positive and contributed to the development of the service model. Service users were surveyed about their experience of the current service model and where improvements could be made. Engagement events were held with partners such as Health (NHS) i.e. Maternity services, University Hospital Leicestershire (UHL) services, Clinical Commissioning Group (now the ICB) and via partnership working groups, such as Perinatal Mental Health and Children's Design Groups, such as Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Group. Additional consultation with schools and children and young people to ensure their views were included ran until 30th September 2021 to better understand how services could be accessed and to identify priorities. Focus groups were also held with County Council staff who had experience of maternity services.

“The worker tries really hard to ensure I get the things I need. The worker helps me think through my decisions and questions me about if I have got things sorted which is good as, without this, I would not have got a lot of things sorted that I have done.”

Feedback from a Leicestershire young person

“I can't thank you enough [...] sometimes words get in the way of what I really want to say and leave me misunderstood but, from the bottom of my heart, for all the times you've been there and guided me through adopting a new life, all I can say is I couldn't have done this without you”.

Feedback from a Rutland young person



Finance

The work of the SCP is supported by the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Partnership Business Office that also supports the Safeguarding Adults Boards and carries out Domestic Homicide Reviews for Community Safety Partnerships in Leicestershire & Rutland. The SCP is funded by contributions from its partners.

A single funding arrangement for the Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards for 2020 onwards has been agreed between the statutory partners for the Safeguarding Adults Boards and the children's Safeguarding Partners for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland.

The contributions from partners for the Leicestershire & Rutland SCP and SAB as a whole for 2022/23 can be seen below alongside contributions for the previous year:

	2021/22	2022/23
Leicestershire County Council	£102,496	£119,266
Rutland County Council	£45,833	£50,367
Leicestershire Police	£88,725	£97,500
West Leicestershire CCG and East Leicestershire & Rutland CCG*	£88,724	£97,500
National Probation Services	£1,348	N/A
Total income for SCP and SAB	£327,126	£364,633

*Note – the contribution was made before the two Clinical Commissioning Groups became the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Statutory partners agreed to reduce contributions for one year in 2021/22 with the difference to be funded from the SCP and SAB reserves.

Overall expenditure across the SCP and SAB for 2022/23 was £317,689. Expenditure for the SCP was apportioned as follows:

	2021/22	2022/23
Staffing	£105,579	£115,357
Independent Advisor	£7,914	£6,562
Support Services	£12,370	£1,090
Operating Costs	£6,700	£8,055
Training	£48,100	£48,550
Case Reviews	£5,254	£5,800
Total Expenditure	£185,917	£185,414

Expenditure overall was broadly in line with the previous year. Expenditure on support services has significantly decreased with only legal advice for the partnership now funded from this budget. The increase in expenditure on operating costs is linked to the development of new training resources, including video assets.

Priorities for 2023-25

Having reviewed learning from local and national reviews, and from local assurance and engagement work, as well as considering the impact of the 2022-23 priorities, the SCP has determined that its priorities should remain going forward. Therefore, the SCP will share the following forward priorities with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board:

For each of these areas, we have set out our rationale for prioritising the topic, and presented the key deliverables, leads, activities, impact measures and timescales. This will enable us to monitor progress and secure assurance that our actions are making a positive difference to the lived experience of our children and families. The [Joint Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Plan for 2023-25](#) is published on our website.

Safeguarding Babies

**Child Mental Health,
Emotional Wellbeing,
and Safeguarding**

**Keeping Adolescents
Safe / Supporting Safe
Adolescents**

**Safeguarding
Children from Diverse
Backgrounds**

**Effective Safeguarding
in Independent and Out
of School Settings**

This page is intentionally left blank