

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

20 September 2018

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LRLSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Report of the Independent Chair of the LRLSCB

Strategic Aim:	This contributes to the corporate objective of 'Creating a brighter future for all'.	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor Richard Foster, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding Children and Young People	
Contact Officer(s):	Simon Westwood, Independent Chair of the LRLSCB	Tel: 0116 305 7130 sbbo@leics.gov.uk
	Dr Tim O'Neill, Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive	Tel: 01572 758307 toneill@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Notes the draft Annual Reports and makes any comments for amendment to be considered by the Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Panel on the draft Annual Report 2017/18 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB). Any comments or proposed additions and amendments will be addressed in the final report before it is presented to the LRLSCB at its meeting on 12 October 2018 and subsequently published.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The LRLSCB is a statutory body established by Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and currently operates under statutory guidance issued in Working Together 2015. It is a requirement that the Board produce an Annual report regarding its work and report it to the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive of the local

authority, the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

- 2.2 Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, LSCBs are due to cease and local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be established in line with statutory guidance issued in Working Together 2018. Until multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are in place LSCBs will continue to function under current statutory guidance.
- 2.3 The Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance on the local approach to safeguarding children in line with the requirements of the legislation and statutory guidance.
- 2.4 The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2017/18 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically it evaluates performance against the priorities that were set out in the LRLSCB Business Plan for 2017/18.
- 2.5 The draft Annual Report can be found at Appendix A to this report, and includes:
 - (i) A foreword from the Independent Chair;
 - (ii) A summary of the work and findings of the Board during the year;
 - (iii) An overview of the Board's governance and accountability arrangements and local context;
 - (iv) Two separate outlines of safeguarding performance, activity and outcomes for Leicestershire and Rutland;
 - (v) Analysis of performance against the key priorities in the 2017/18 Business Plan;
 - (vi) An overview of the Board's work on engagement, assurance, learning and development and training;
 - (vii) The challenges ahead including the Business Development Plan Priorities for 2018/19.
- 2.6 The key messages from the LRLSCB regarding Rutland are:
 - a) Workers and agencies work well together to safeguard children in Rutland.
 - b) Capacity of workers is impacting upon their ability to attend development opportunities and put learning into practice.
 - c) Notable reductions in referrals to social care and children on child protection plans need to be further understood.
 - d) Understanding of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) needs to be improved within the voluntary and community sector.
 - e) Consistency of practice within agencies across a range of areas of work still requires improvement. This includes quality of assessment, recording, information sharing and hearing and responding to the voice of children.
 - f) The Board will continue to challenge and drive improvement in safeguarding of children, preparing for the changes in legislation which will require the establishment of new safeguarding arrangements by 2019 led by three statutory partners; the local authorities, the clinical commissioning groups for the area and the police.

- 2.7 The Annual Report is being presented to a range of forums including the Cabinets, Children’s Scrutiny Panels or Committees and the Health and Well-Being Boards in both local authority areas.

3 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. The LRLSCB operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
- 3.2 Rutland County Council contributes £52,250 to the costs of the LRLSCB (of a total budget of £240,263 in 2018/19) and £8,240 to the costs of the LRSAB (of a total budget of £100,878 in 2018/19).
- 3.3 Following anticipated funding reductions and agreement with Board partners the Board budget for 2018/19 no longer includes funding for Serious Case Reviews (or Safeguarding Adults Reviews for the SAB). These are to be funded through the reserves of the Safeguarding Boards. The reserves are sufficient to cover current reviews underway. The Board has agreed that any additional costs would be covered proportionally by safeguarding partners.
- 3.4 The budget requirement for future years will be considered in the work to agree new multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children and parallel consideration of safeguarding adults board support arrangements.

4 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Annual Report of the Leicestershire & Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board for 2017/18 provides an assessment of the work of the partnership in improving Safeguarding of Children in Leicestershire and Rutland. The report is presented so that the Panel may provide comment on the Annual report that will be considered and addressed prior to the final report being submitted to the LRLSCB on 12 October, after which it will be published.

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

6 APPENDICES

- 6.1 The draft Annual Report of the LRLSCB for 2017/18 is appended. (Appendix A)

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.