

Appendix A.

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) structure

The LRSCP will be the strategic leadership group. It will consist of Director-level representatives from the five statutory safeguarding partner organisations. Other organisations will be invited to attend as appropriate. The LRSCP will be chaired by the Independent Advisor. In the first year the partnership will meet quarterly following which the meeting frequency will be reviewed.

Planning and Delivery Group

The Group will run across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland where possible and replace the current Joint Executives.

The Group will co-ordinate the business of the LRSCP and ensure the delivery of the business plan. Membership of this group will be based on the existing LRLSCB Executive Group but must include Assistant Director level representation, Heads of Safeguarding or Safeguarding leads from statutory partners, and chairs of sub-groups. Others will be invited as necessary. The group would be chaired by an independent advisor or senior statutory partner.

The Group, and notably the Chair, will have a significant workload including ensuring delivery of the LRSCP business plan, commissioning/managing sub-groups, and scrutinising assurance reports and new policy. It will report directly to the LRSCP.

This will require further refinement and development to ensure it is able to deliver the range and volume of activity and replace the need for a separate effectiveness group. The details of this will be completed by September 2019 in partnership with Leicester City.

Young People Advisory Group

This will comprise around a dozen members, with flexibility to allow new representatives to join. The group would work with the Planning and Delivery Group to ensure the views of young people help shape the LRSCP's priorities, and to give feedback on its work. The group will formally lead a session of the LRSCP once each year and will have a standing item on the agenda of the other meetings should it wish to contribute.

Policy and Procedures Group

This group will consist of officers from across the safeguarding partnership, including representatives of the five statutory partners, and would continue to be run as a joint group with Leicester. It will report to the Planning and Delivery Group and will operate as now and be joint with Leicester City. Clearly the next year will require significant additional time and input to ensure all procedures are compliant with the new legislation in WT 2018. Responsibility for the review and evaluation of the threshold document will be held by the Policy and Procedures Group.

Multi Agency Learning and Development Group (Leicestershire, Rutland and Leicester)

The LRSCP will carry out a Training Needs Analysis each year to identify what training is required locally. This will be informed by partnership priorities, the outcome of reviews and audits, and other local/national issues.

Training – both face-to-face and online – will be commissioned based on this for the year ahead with a margin of flexibility built in to address any emerging priorities and issues.

Case Review Group

The Case Review Group (CRG) will consider referrals for local Safeguarding Practice Reviews and receive notifications and referrals; ensure rapid reviews are undertaken and reports are prepared to be sent to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The group will commission reviews and consider and disseminate learning from reviews, audits and inspections (local, other local authorities and national).

This group is already in place and work to achieve a common process and alignment with Leicester City is underway. This will continue in the new arrangements through the Case Review Group. WT 2018 requires that there should be independent scrutiny of the arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This will be provided by the independent advisor.

Initially the Chair will be the local authority lead from the Safeguarding Partners with responsibility for notifications to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Membership will consist of safeguarding leads from all partner agencies.

Child Death Review Panel

The responsibility for ensuring child death reviews are carried out is held by 'child death review partners,' who, in relation to a local authority area in England, are defined as the local authority for that area and any clinical commissioning groups operating in the local authority area. The new Safeguarding Partnership will need to maintain a link with CDRP to enable reciprocal reporting of any safeguarding concerns. This can be provided by the Directors of Public Health.

This is an existing Panel arrangements for which will remain unchanged. Arrangements will continue to be run jointly with Leicester.

Multi Agency Audit

This group will focus activity and emphasis on quality assurance of frontline services through multi-agency thematic audits. The group will provide constructive challenge and gather views of multi-agency practitioners to test assurance reports from statutory partners.

Inter-Board Partnership Arrangements

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will have key links with, provide information to and seek relevant assurances through the following partnership boards:

- i. Strategic Partnership Board and associated sub groups (including the Vulnerability Executive that leads the strategic overview and delivery of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland response to the exploitation of children);
- ii. Youth Offending Service Management Board;
- iii. Leicestershire Health and Well Being Board;
- iv. Rutland Health and Well Being Board;
- v. Leicestershire Children and Family Partnership;
- vi. Rutland Children's Trust;
- vii. Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board;
- viii. Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board;
- ix. Rutland Community Safety Partnership;
- x. Child Death Review Panel (Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland).

Independent Scrutiny of the New Partnership

The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

The overall scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements will be provided by the partnership through the scrutiny of the safeguarding partners assurance reports.

The option of commissioning peer reviews of the arrangements in place remains open and will form part of the independent scrutiny options.

The option of independent scrutiny to support any dispute resolution process is also part of the current procedure and where the statutory partners cannot come to a unanimous agreement then the advice of the independent advisor should be sought and in coming to a final decision, the response to that advice should be transparent. Each statutory partner retains their own access to legal advice.

There is a statutory requirement for the partnership to publish a report every 12 months. This will set out what has been done by the Partnership to safeguard children and young people during the previous year and how effective the partnership arrangements have been. This will be independently scrutinised.