

## CABINET

18 June 2019

### NEW CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Report of the Strategic Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Safeguarding	
Key Decision: Yes	Forward Plan Reference: FP/010219	
Reason for Urgency:	N/A	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, Early Years, SEND, Inclusion, Safeguarding Children & Young People	
Contact Officer(s):	Dawn Godfrey, Deputy Director - Children's Services	01572 758358 dgodfrey@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the approach to the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements for children to be known as Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

## **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to set out the proposals for the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children. These changes are required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 (statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) and will replace the current Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) by September 2019.

## **2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

2.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) were established by the Children Act 2004 which gave a statutory responsibility to each locality to have this mechanism in place. LSCBs were the key system for organisations to come together to agree on how they will cooperate with one another to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

2.2 Working Together 2018 (WT 2018) guidance covers the legislative requirements placed on individual services and sets out a framework for the local safeguarding partners to work together in accordance with the relevant legislation.

2.3 A *safeguarding partner* in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- i. the local authority Chief Executive;
- ii. the accountable officer of a clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area;
- iii. the chief officer of police for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area.

2.4 The safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together locally and with any relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need. Once the local arrangements are in place and have been published, the safeguarding partners must also publish a report at least once in every 12-month period that sets out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

## **3 EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS**

3.1 Leicester and Rutland have a joint LCSB – the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB). Leicester City Council has its own LCSB. The LRLSCB has an independent Chairman who submits Annual Reports and Business Plans to the member authorities each year and Leicestershire County and Rutland County Councils each are represented on the LRLSCB by senior officers.

3.2 The LRLSCB coordinates arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across the regions. The partnership working enables organisations to be held to account and ensures that safeguarding children remains high on the agenda.

3.3 The LRLSCB provides policies, procedures and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It provides advice and information, including by means of leaflets and posters and has formed strong links with the Voluntary and Community Sector and has a VCS Reference Group which also supports Leicester's LCSB.

#### **4 PROPOSED NEW SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2019**

4.1 The new arrangements will cover the local authority areas of Leicestershire and Rutland; the statutory safeguarding partners being Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council, the East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG, the West Leicestershire CCG and Leicestershire Police.

4.2 Leicester City will have a separate Safeguarding Partnership for Children, however both partnerships will be supported by a number of joint meetings across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

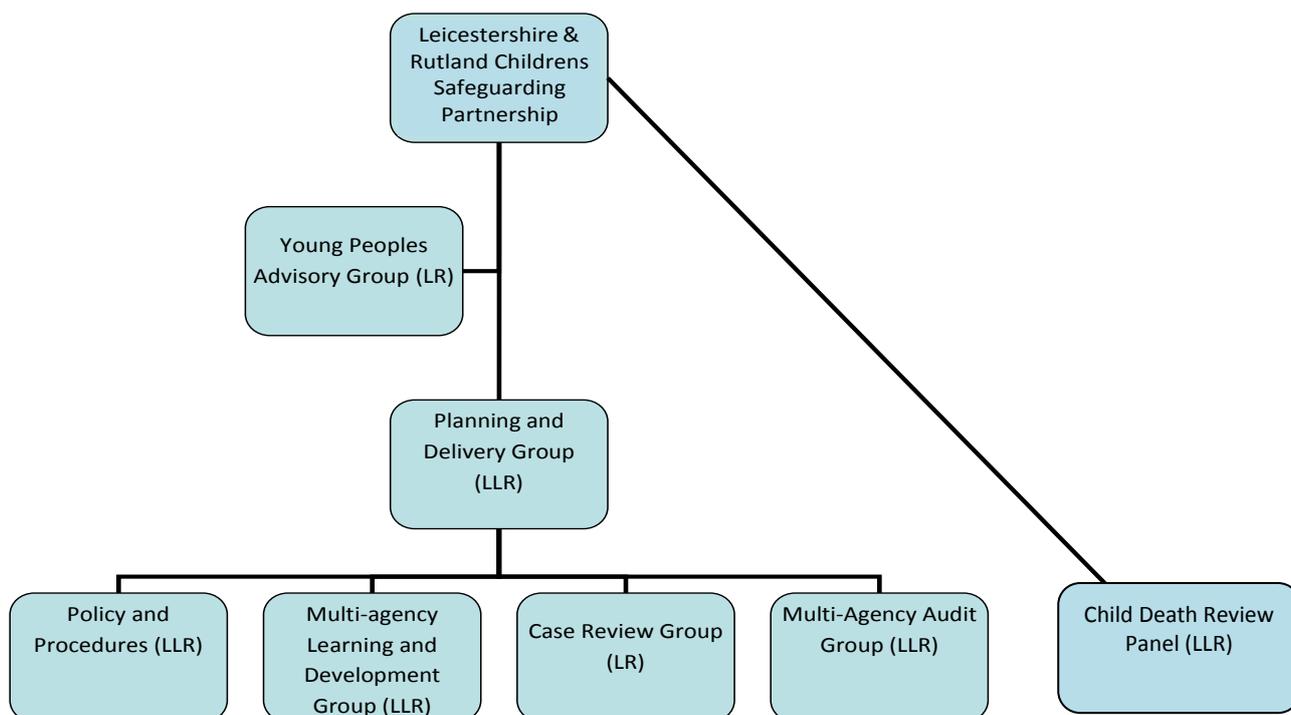
4.3 The published arrangements will include the plans for independent scrutiny. Working Together 2018 requires that safeguarding partners ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.

4.4 From September 2019, the new arrangements propose that the current Independent Chair model be adapted to become an Independent Advisor which will provide part of the independent scrutiny function including advising on decisions relating to local practice reviews and notifications to national bodies.

4.5 The Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) in local authorities holds key political accountability for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable and their families and carers, are addressed.

4.6 The Lead Members for Children's Services in Leicestershire and Rutland will therefore attend the Leicestershire and Rutland Children's Safeguarding Partnership, as in the former arrangements, in a participant observer role to maintain their independence to facilitate this independent scrutiny.

4.7 The proposed partnership structure is outlined in the following diagram, with a brief description of each group available at appendix A:-



Key: LLR - Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland : LR - Leicestershire and Rutland

- 4.8 Terms of reference for each group will be developed with members of current groups and the LRLSC Partnership and will be in place when the new partnership comes into force on 29 September 2019.
- 4.9 The statutory partners from the LRLSCP will continue to meet with the safeguarding partners for the Leicester City area for a leadership discussion to include sharing intelligence, reviewing key priorities and strategic commissioning.
- 4.10 The partnership will 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.

## 5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Lead officers from each of the key partners defined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (Leicestershire and Rutland Local Authorities, Leicestershire Police and the Clinical Commissioning Groups which cover the local authority area) have met to develop these proposals and considered the advice of, and previous reports to the Board, from the current Independent Chair.
- 5.2 The current LRLSCB members, including the lead members for children from Leicestershire and Rutland who are participating observers on the Board, have had the opportunity to provide comment on the proposals.

## 6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no viable alternative options to the proposed new safeguarding arrangements. It is vital that Rutland continues to actively engage with and shape

children's safeguarding across our region and within the footprint of our key statutory partners.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no immediate cost implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The safeguarding partners will need to agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate. Guidance indicates that the funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews.
- 7.2 Rutland County Council has a budget of £67,600 for the children's safeguarding board and this will remain the same.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 It is a requirement of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 for all local authority areas to have in place by the end of September 2019, multi-agency partnership arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. The proposals set out in this report meet this requirement.
- 8.2 There is a further requirement that the new arrangements are published before the end of June 2019 and include the plans for independent scrutiny. Working Together 2018 requires that safeguarding partners ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement. Details of the plans for independent scrutiny can be found at appendix A.

## **9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed.

## **10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 The new safeguarding arrangements will support vulnerable children and young people from across all communities in Rutland. The new arrangements are responsible for ensuring that service responses are fair, equitable to all and that children are safe. This report does not highlight any specific equal opportunities implications.

## **11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 None identified.

## **12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 None identified.

## **13 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 set out specific duties for local authorities, working with partner organisations and agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.

13.2 Realistically these duties can only be discharged with the full co-operation of other partners. The responsibility for this join-up locally rests with the safeguarding partners, the Police, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the local authority, which have a shared and equal duty to agree and make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

13.3 It is a requirement for all local authority areas to have in place by the end of September 2019, multi-agency partnership arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. It is also a requirement to publish these arrangements by 29 June 2019.

## **14 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

## **15 APPENDICES**

15.1 Appendix A details the proposed partnership groups to support the work of the new Leicestershire and Rutland children's safeguarding partnership.

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