

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

17th SEPTEMBER 2015

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LRLSCB)

Report of the Independent Chair of the LRLSCB

Strategic Aim:	<i>This contributes to the corporate objective of 'Creating a brighter future for all'.</i>	
Exempt Information	No.	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor Richard Foster, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding Children and Young People	
Contact Officer(s):	Paul Burnett, Independent Chair of the LRLSCB	Tel: 0116 305 2736 sbbo@leics.gov.uk
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Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Note the Annual Report and make any comments, proposed additions or amendments to the report that will be addressed prior to the final version of the Annual Report being published.

Appendices A & B

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To present the Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) 2014/15 for consideration and comment by the Scrutiny Panel

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. The LRLSCB is a partnership that is required by regulation. The main purpose of the LSCB is to ensure, effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of children and young people.

2.2. It is a statutory requirement as set out in Working Together 2015 that the LSCB publish an annual report. Working Together 2015 states that:

'The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board'

2.3. In Leicestershire and Rutland we have, in addition, always presented the annual report to scrutiny panels given our shared roles in scrutinising and challenging provision.

2.4. Working Together also states that the annual report should 'provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the cause of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons learned from reviews undertaken with the reporting period. Clearly it is important for the Scrutiny Panel to test whether the report meets these requirements when it considers the LRLSCB Annual Report.

2.5. The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Rutland People (Children) Scrutiny Panel the LRLSCBs Annual Report and Executive Summary for consultation and comment. The report will be presented for final approval to the LRLSB at their meeting on 16th October 2014. Any comments or proposed additions and amendments made by the Scrutiny Panel will be considered for inclusion in the final report to the Board.

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

3.1. The LRLSCB has been aligned to the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) for three years. They share the same Independent Chair. The intention of alignment was to ensure that there are effective and efficient safeguarding services in an integrated manner across the communities of Leicestershire and Rutland. This has supported a focus on vulnerable children, adults and families.

3.2. This year we have reverted to presenting separate annual reports for the LRSAB and the LRLSCB. The reasons are twofold. First there have been changes to the statutory frameworks within which both Boards work that underline the need for bespoke annual reports. Second, feedback from readers of last years' annual report suggested that the combined report was too complex and lengthy and risked diverting attention from key issues in the children and adult safeguarding arenas. For this reason two annual reports are

being produced and the LRSAB Annual Report will be considered separately by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.3. The LRLSCB Business Plan for 2015/16 was presented to this Scrutiny Panel in April 2015. The Committee will, therefore, be aware of some of the strengths and areas for development that arose from the assessment of performance in 2014/15 since this informed the framing of that Business Plan. However, the Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance that will be a key document for consideration when Ofsted carries out its 'Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers' alongside which a review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding children board will be undertaken. As pointed out earlier Working Together 2015 requires the Annual Report to be produced and identifies a range of issues that must be covered. It is, necessarily, a detailed report but we have included an Executive Summary to assist readers in gauging the key achievements and development needs arising from the assessment of the Boards' performance across 2014/15.
- 3.4. The key purpose of the Annual Report is to assess the impact of the work we have undertaken in 2014/15 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically it evaluates our performance against the priorities that we set in our Business Plan 2014/15 and against other statutory functions that the LSCB in particular must undertake.
- 3.5. In addition to the Business Plan priorities the LRLSCB witnessed some significant changes in the national frameworks governing its operation. First, the Department for Education issued a revised version of Working Together in March 2015 that has required the Board to review some aspects of its work.
- 3.6. The full version of the Annual Report 2014/15 is attached as Appendix B.
- 3.7. The Annual Report includes:
 - A foreword by the Independent Chair
 - A brief overview of the local area safeguarding context with some key context data;
 - An overview of the Boards' governance and accountability arrangements;
 - Analysis of performance against the five key priorities in the 2014/15 Business Plan which were:

Priority 1: To be assured that 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility'

Priority 2a: To be assured that children and young people are safe

Priority 2c: To be assured that services for children, services for adults and services for families are effectively coordinated to ensure children and adults are safe

Priority 3a: To be assured of the quality of care for any child not living with a parent or someone with parental responsibility

Priority 4: To be assured that our Learning and Improvement Framework is raising service quality and outcomes for children and young people

Priority 5: To be assured that the workforce is fit for purpose

- An overview of performance in key statutory functions notably the Serious Case Review Sub-Group and Child Death Overview Panel – both of which are statutorily required in the children’s safeguarding arena.
- The challenges ahead including our Business Plan 2015/16

3.8. The annual report is a lengthy document much of which is prescribed in Working Together 2015. For this reason we have produced the Executive Summary to the report which is attached at Appendix A and highlights key achievements and areas for development that have been drawn into the Business Plan for 2015/16.

3.9. Clearly the Scrutiny Panel will primarily focus on those elements of the Annual Report that relate to performance in Rutland. The Executive Summary does highlight key strengths and development needs that relate to Rutland as well as those that apply across both local authority areas. In due course there will be a need to raise with the Executive, through Cabinet, both the successes that have been achieved in the county but also any issues that need to be addressed in future strategic planning and investment in safeguarding. Clearly, the views of the Scrutiny Panel would be included in any future reporting to Cabinet in Rutland.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1. In preparing the Annual Report the views and opinions of a range of stakeholders have been considered including: members of the LRLSCB; members of the LRLSCB Executive; the views of children and young people; the views of staff.

4.2. The current version of the Annual Report is being presented to a range of other bodies as part of this process of consultation and comment. In Rutland specifically it will be presented to the People (Adults) Scrutiny Panel; the Health and Well-Being Board; the Children’s Trust and; Cabinet. It will be presented to the equivalent bodies in Leicestershire.

4.3. It is a requirement that the Annual Report is published once agreed by the Board in October 2015.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1. The Annual Report is a statutory requirement of Working Together 2015 and therefore if it was not provided the Council would not be undertaking its statutory functions and could be open to legal challenge.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Rutland County Council contributes £52, 250 to the costs of the LRLSCB (of a total budget of £335,525). In addition it contributes £8,240 to the costs of the

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) (of a total budget of £102,610).

7. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1. The LRLSCB is a statutory partnership body. Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on LSCBs.

As explained in 2.2 above the Annual Report must be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board. It has always been considered best practice in Leicestershire and Rutland to include relevant Scrutiny Panels in the presentation of the Annual Report particularly since we share a scrutiny and challenge role in relation to safeguarding.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of LSCB Annual Reports is not required. It is important to emphasise that the focus of the work of the LSCB includes those groups that are deemed most vulnerable from a safeguarding perspective. All safeguarding performance data is collected in such a way as to identify gender, ethnicity and disability and other protected characteristics so that impact on specific groups can be monitored.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There is a close connection between the work of the LSCB and that of community safety partnerships including the Safer Rutland Partnership. For example the LSCB works closely with community safety partnerships to scrutinise and challenge performance in community safety issues that affect the safeguarding and well-being of individuals and groups e.g. domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and emotional health and well-being. The LSCB also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.
- 9.2. The LRLSCB Annual Report includes analysis of performance in a range of areas relevant to the community safety agenda and the evaluation of performance will be shared with these partnership forums to ensure that both strengths and development needs are recognised and acted on.

10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. A key purpose of the LRLSCB is to safeguard and protect the well-being of children and young people in Leicestershire and Rutland. The Health and Well-Being Board recognises the contribution that effective safeguarding makes to the well-being of the communities of Rutland.
- 10.2. There is a formal protocol between the LRLSCB (and the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board) and the Rutland Health and Well-Being that

includes the requirement to report this annual report to the Health and Well-Being Board and agree any collective actions that need to be taken to improve both safeguarding effectiveness and the general well-being of the community.

11. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1. Environmental implications

11.2. There are no direct environmental implications from the LRLSCB Annual Report

11.3. Human Resource implications

11.4. There are no direct human resource implications from the LRLSCB Annual Report. However, a key element of the LRLSCBs role is to ensure that partner agencies provide sufficient human resource capacity to deliver effective safeguarding and that staff have the appropriate training and development opportunities to secure competent delivery of safeguarding responsibilities. The Annual Report includes evaluation of these matters.

11.5. Procurement Implications

11.6. The LRLSCB and the LRSAB promote the inclusion of safeguarding requirements in the commissioning of services for children, young people and adults with an expectation that contract performance arrangements will test providers performance in meeting expected safeguarding standards such as those tested through our Section 11 audit process.

12. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1. The Executive Summary and LRLSCB Annual Report provide the Scrutiny Panel with a comprehensive report of safeguarding performance in 2014/15. The report is intended to support the Panel in its own scrutiny and challenge of performance in the County. It is also presented so that the Panel may comment and propose changes, amendments or additions that will be reported to the LRLSCB for consideration when they consider the final report at their meeting on 16th October 2015.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1. There are no additional background papers to this report

14. APPENDICES

14.1. Appendix A – Executive Summary to the LRLSCB Annual Report 2014/15
Appendix B – LRLSCB Annual Report 2014/15

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