

Leicester
Safeguarding
Children Board



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2018/2019**



Leicester Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2018/2019

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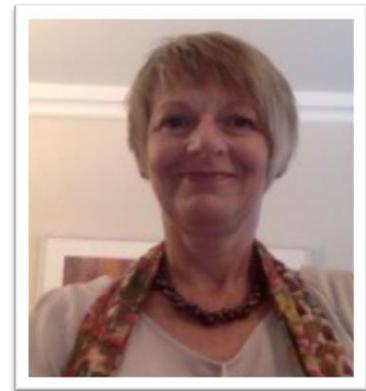
An easy read version of this document is in development and will be published on the
Local Safeguarding Children Board website

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the Leicester Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018/19. As part of its statutory duties set out in Working Together 2015, the LSCB is required to produce an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. This LSCB annual report sets out to provide readers with a transparent assessment of the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to keeping children safe and to promote their welfare across the city of Leicester against the priorities set within the LSCB Business Plan for 2018-2020.



Jenny Myers MA CQSW ASW

This report therefore considers how well the Local Safeguarding Children Board has delivered against its priorities throughout 2018/19 and considers the period from April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

It has been my privilege to chair the LSCB for Leicester for the past three years. During that time, I have seen a number of positive improvements that have resulted in stronger and more effective multi-agency partnership working. Agencies are better at holding each other to account for the effectiveness of safeguarding, creating a culture of constructive challenge and at working with our partners in the county to avoid duplication and pooling our resources. This annual report shows a number of examples of how this has been achieved.

I am particularly pleased at the progress that has been made in providing early help to those families who need it most, this has resulted in a reduction of children being placed on child protection plans (CPP). The voice and lived experience of children is being evidenced better in multi-agency working.

There have been positive Ofsted focused visits in the local authority, Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police, Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection demonstrating progress and more effective working. Though some inconsistencies still remain progress has been good and there is assurance that the multi-agency partnerships are keeping children safe.

The LSCB have been especially concerned about the mental health of children in Leicester and the effective provision of timely and good quality Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Leicestershire Partnership (NHS) Trust (LPT) have regularly provided assurance reports around improvements plans post their CQC inspections, but there remain concerns at the pace and robustness of improvements and there is still much to do.

The Generation Select Committee was an outstanding example of how young people held agencies to account for their contribution and support to young people in addressing concerns about access to mental health support services and how these might be overcome, this work is detailed on page 38.

My final reflection is that whilst practice is improving, the reality is that for a growing number of children and families in Leicester life is tough, and the issues faced by them are growing more complex.

Many of the families receiving services are living in poverty as evidenced by recent reports such as the [End Child Poverty Coalition Report](#) which shows that Leicester is in the top 20 local authorities with the highest levels of child poverty across the UK both after and before housing costs. Leicester is higher than the national average of 30% and 22% - at 41.3% or 39,776 children living in poverty after housing costs and 33.8% or 32,543 children before housing costs. Poverty puts extreme stress on families struggling at time to provide the basic needs for their children. This can result in increased occurrences of abuse and neglect including domestic abuse, substance misuse and poor mental health. This is at a time when resources are scarce, and budgets being reduced, and this concerns me greatly.

Following the Children Act 2017, from the end of September 2019 the LSCB, in its current form, will no longer exist. The responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements will then sit with the three named partners the local authority, the police and the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The new partnership plans have just been published and whilst there are some great opportunities to do things more efficiently and effectively without making huge changes to the current arrangements, there are still risks that money, rather than a shared commitment to safeguarding children, could become the main driver.

My thanks to all those agencies, staff, volunteers and young people who work so hard to ensure that children and families of Leicester are supported and kept safe.



Independent Chair

Leicester Safeguarding Children Board

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout 2018/19 Leicester Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) worked to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of each of its partners to meet its strategic objectives:

- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

What worked well:

- The LSCB held partners to account on a range of issues for children in particular circumstances including improving quoracy of Initial Child Protection Conferences, waiting times for CAMHS, CSE, Missing and Trafficked Children and Children subject to a Child Protection Plan amongst other subjects.
- Throughout 2018/19 the LSCB Performance Assurance and Audit Group requested, received and scrutinised information including performance reports, single and multi-agency audits and safeguarding highlight reports. Exceptions were reported to the Strategic Board, providing assurance that partner agencies are delivering good quality services which safeguard children and promote their wellbeing.
- The LSCB Serious Incident Review Group ensured that the LSCB met its statutory responsibilities as outlined in Chapter 4, Working together 2015 to undertake serious case reviews in cases which met the criteria and other learning reviews and ensured the board partners undertook actions to learn and improve.
- During 2018/19 the LSCB received seven notifiable incidents involving ten children, each of these were subject to a rapid review before a decision was made on whether the case met the criteria for a serious case review. As a result, the LSCB has four Serious Case Reviews underway and is completing a multi-agency thematic learning review on four of the cases involving pre-birth and babies.
- The LSCB also published two non-recent serious case reviews in relation to Baby Nadiya and Baby Robyn. It also published a learning review in relation to Brandon who took his own life in 2016
- The LSCB Core Business and Chairs Executive have also received assurance that lessons from our reviews had not only been identified but had also been learnt and that the actions undertaken by partners had made a difference. This assurance is key to ensuring that reviews undertaken are having a positive impact in preventing future harm.
- The LSCB demonstrated its commitment to engagement and participation by participating in the Generation Select Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

- During 2018/19 the LSCB Multi-Agency Training Group revised its training strategy and developed a new framework for delivery of multi-agency training including implementing a charging strategy to support priority areas for enhanced multi-agency learning across the partnership.
- During 2018/19 the LSCB worked with L&R SCB to ensure that multi-agency safeguarding children policies and procedures were reviewed and uploaded to the online platform and that new policies required were developed and launched across the partnership.

What more will we do:

- Ensure children and young people in dangerous circumstances have faster, easier access to safeguarding support
- Ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding prevention and early help support to children and young people living in vulnerable families
- Ensure that the child's lived experience through multi-agency safeguarding systems is effective including Children Looked After
- LSCB is to be assured that the culture and continuous system of single and multi-agency learning, and Improvement improves outcomes
- Ensure the effectiveness of the Board and partners through its governance, performance and quality assurance processes
- Support the move into the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in September 2019
- Conclude the four Serious Case Reviews in progress and ensure the learning is disseminated and the impact of this tested.

2. THE BOARD

Purpose

The LSCB is the key statutory partnership with responsibility for overseeing the multi-agency response to children’s safeguarding arrangements in the local area. It is governed by the statutory guidance in Working Together (2015) and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations (2006). The role of the LSCB is to coordinate the activity of all agencies to keep all children in Leicester safe, promote their welfare and to seek assurance and evaluate how effective multi-agency safeguarding is. Within this statutory role, the LSCB implements Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Overview arrangements.

LSCB Membership

The LSCB comprises of several local organisations and agencies that work in diverse ways with children and their families. Board members are either senior representatives or the most relevant representatives of these organisations and agencies.

The partner agencies represented on the LSCB are from a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations. They include City Council representatives from relevant departments, Police, Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS), Leicestershire Partnership Trust (NHS), University Hospitals Leicester (NHS), National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, CAFCASS, voluntary and community sector representatives, schools and colleges and two statutory Lay Members.

Non-agency	Independent Chair 
	Lay Members  
Criminal Justice	Derby Nottingham Leicester & Rutland (DNLR) National Probation Service 
	Leicestershire Police 
	RRP DNLR - Community Rehabilitation Companies 
Education	Leicester Primary School 
	Leicester Secondary School 
	Leicester Further Education College 
Family Justice	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service 
Health	Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group  
	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust 
	University Hospitals Leicester NHS Trust 
Local Authority	Lead Member 
	Leicester City Council Adult Services 
	Leicester City Council Children’s Services   
	Leicester Public Health 
	Youth Offending Service 
PVI Sector	Voluntary Community Sector 

The LSCB continued to have a senior strategic membership in 2018-19 with members retaining a high level of seniority and adding additional value to co-ordinated partnership working (**See Appendix 1**). All partner agencies are committed to ensuring the effective operation of the LSCB.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board is supported by a robust constitution that defines how its statutory obligations are delivered in Leicester. This document is reviewed and refreshed annually and can be found on the LSCB website at <http://www.lcitylscb.org/about-the-lscb/lscb-constitution/>.

LSCB Independent Chair

The Independent Chair is accountable to the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Leicester City Council, acting on behalf of and in consultation with the statutory partners. Over the last year the Chair has held regular meetings with the COO, the Strategic Director of Children's Services, and other senior officers from member agencies such as Leicester CCG, Leicestershire Police and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. She has also attended Children's Trust meetings, liaised with the L&RSCB Independent Chair and LSAB Independent Chair regarding cross cutting themes. She has actively contributed to support and challenge the local authority in their improvement journey and to achieve the recognition by Ofsted of the improvements made in the safeguarding partnership arrangements.

Lead Member for Children's Services

The LSCB also benefits from the attendance of a proactive Lead Member for Children's Services who, as a participating observer of the LSCB, routinely attends meetings and receives all written reports and presentation. They engage and bring challenge to discussions but are not part of the decision-making process, so they can retain the necessary independence to challenge the LSCB members on matters of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Lay Members

The LSCB has two Lay Member positions who are full members of the LSCB, participating in Board meetings, and have a role in serving on relevant sub-groups and contributing to the links between the LSCB and community groups as well as supporting stronger public engagement. One position became vacant in December 2018.

LSCB Business Office

The LSCB is supported by a dedicated group of staff that ensure the smooth running of the Board's day-to-day business. The team includes an LSCB Manager; a Project Development Officer (Training) and Project Officer (Training) whose roles includes the training coordination across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland; a Policy Officer and 1.5 FTE Admin and Business Support Officers.

Joint Working Arrangements

It is recognised that much of the work of both the Leicester Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) is a shared agenda which features common areas of priority and work across several agencies across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) including many that operate in the geographical areas of both Boards. Therefore, there are a range of joint arrangements and subgroups managed through the LLR LSCB Joint Executive Group. This group meets every quarter to ensure effective governance, scrutiny, assurance and challenge across the shared LLR agenda and activities.

The Leicester City and the Leicestershire and Rutland LSCBs (LLR) continue to work closely on policy, procedures, training and development and other work that affect services and practice across the three authorities and the children's workforce. The LLR LSCB partnership is responsible for maintaining and

developing the multi-agency safeguarding procedures, as well as agreeing and delivering the training strategy and a shared multi-agency audit programme through the LLR Joint Executive Group.

Relationship with Other Partnerships

The LSCB has continued to strengthen working arrangements with other strategic partnerships in Leicester that have a significant role in keeping safe vulnerable children, young people and adults. In addition, the LSCB works closely with Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB as well as the Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and this year has aligned much of the work and reporting processes to reduce duplication.

Closer joint working on performance monitoring, assurance and communications has also been developed through regular meetings of the Business Managers across Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB and Leicester City SAB where joint initiatives are proposed and developed for consideration by the two adult and children LLR Joint Executive Group and for agreement by the respective strategic board.

There remains links and formal protocols with the following partnership structures in Leicester:

- ✓ **Children's Trust Board**
- ✓ **Corporate Parenting Board**
- ✓ **Family Justice Board**
- ✓ **Health and Wellbeing Board**
- ✓ **Safeguarding Adults Board**
- ✓ **Safer Leicester Partnership**
- ✓ **Young Offender Management Board**

The structure chart on the following page illustrates the LSCB's relationship with other Strategic Partnership Boards in Leicester.



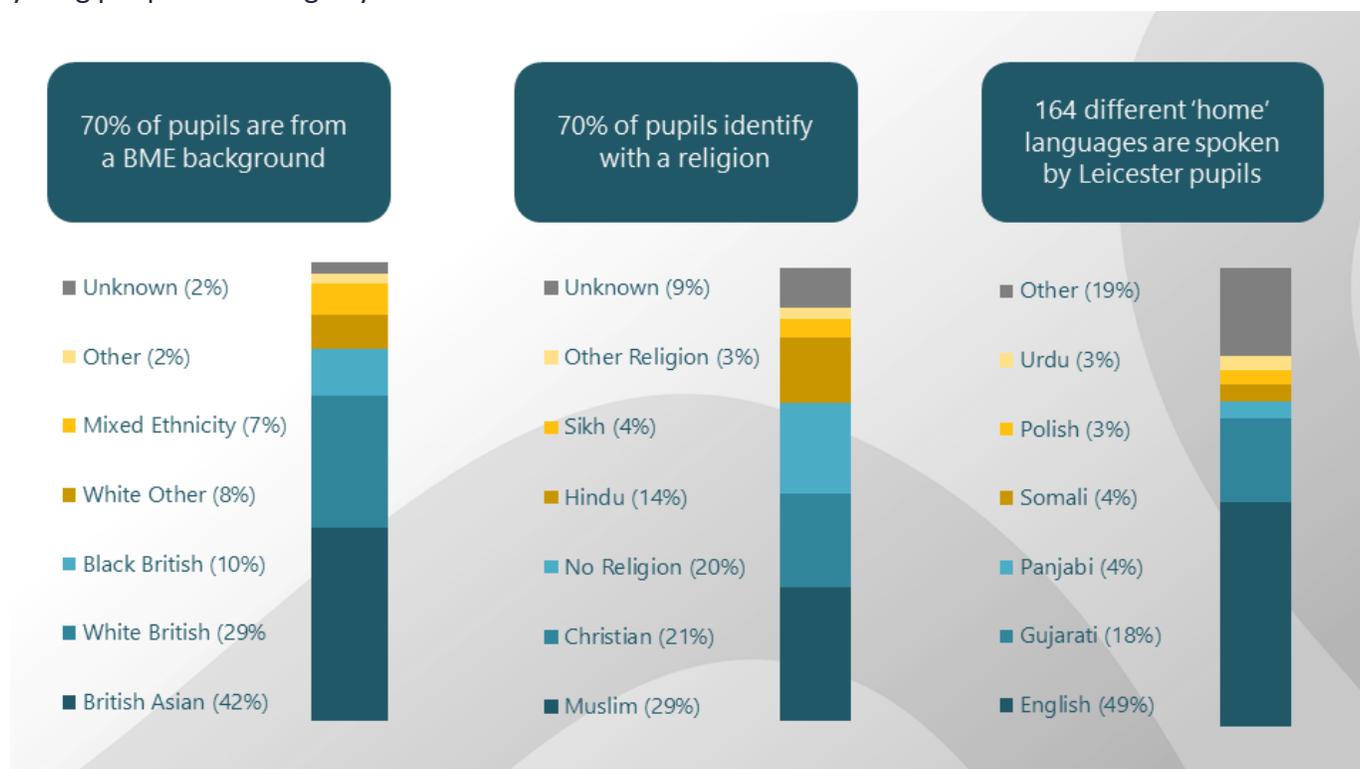
Board Structure



3. WHAT DOES SAFEGUARDING IN LEICESTER LOOK LIKE?

With a population of more than **330,000** Leicester is the 10th largest city in the UK and the largest city in the East Midlands. Leicester has a young population and the city is seeing major increases in the number of children and young people living here. The city is home to **130,726** children and young people aged up to 24 years, an increase of **12.5%** since 2015, which is more than double the increase seen in England as a whole. This growth includes a big increase in the number of young children aged **0-4 years** which rose by nearly **25%** from **20,726 in 2005** to **25,884 in 2015**.

According to the JSNA, Leicester has a younger age profile than England as **over 1 in 4** are aged **19 or under**. The 19 and under population has a higher proportion of people from a BME background than the city overall. The Leicester school census (5- 15) shows the diversity of over 50,000 children and young people attending city schools as below:



There are around **5,100** births in Leicester each year, and the city's birth rate is **higher** than for England. Although infant mortality rates are not significantly different from the England average, this varies across the city and rates are **highest in the most deprived parts of Leicester**. Although the birth rate is stabilising, forecasts show that by 2025, the population of young people aged 0-24 will increase by a further **138,100 (an increase of 7.4% from 2014)**. Deprivation has an important impact on children's lives both in the short and long-term and there is a clear link between how long people live, how good their health is and deprivation.

Leicester: Safeguarding Data

- Contacts to Duty and Assessment Service (DAS) – **14,061 contacts to social care were recorded** (up 24%)
- Referrals and re-referrals – there were **2,098 recorded referrals, with 374 (17.8%) being re-referrals**. Referrals fell by over 41% year-on-year. There were fewer re-referrals and, although there was a slight rise in the percentage of re-referrals, these were reviewed by the service and deemed to be appropriate based on the information received.
- Statutory social work assessments completed by CIN: **2,981 single assessments were completed** (down 23%). 84.6% were completed within 45 working days, comparable to 2017-18, with an average time of 38 days.
- Open Child in Need (CiN) cases: **1,962** (down 24% from 2017-18)
- No. of child protection investigations: **1,012** as of 31 March 2019 (down 47%). Internal recording practice has changed during the year. We now discount cases that are already CP or CLA in this calculation. 67% of cases in the revised measure went on to ICPC.
- Children on a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and LAC: **350 CPP** (down 43%) and **657 CLA** (down 4%) as of 31 March 2019.



- Number of children and young people identified as being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): **55 CSE** as of 31 March 2019. Comparable numbers to 2017-18, although 148 episodes ended and 149 started within the year.
- Children with a Disability (CWD) cases: **178 children and young people recorded as having a disability** (9% of open CIN cases) as of 31 March 2019. **55 social work cases were held by the Disabled Children's Service** as of 31 March 2019.

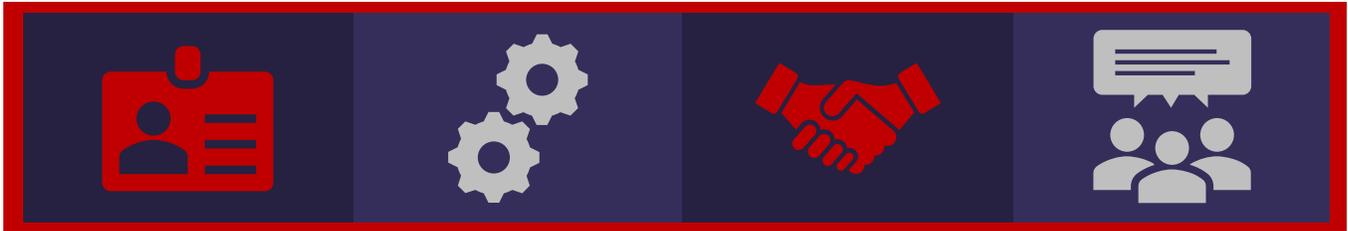
Private fostering numbers: **Five children** as of 31 March 2019. This is stable as there were 6 children in private fostering arrangement at the end of the previous year.

Incidents of children and young people going missing from care: **857 missing occasions for 86 Children Looked After** - between 01 April 2018 and 31 March 2019. Small reduction in both episodes and young people

- Incidents of children and young people missing from home: **714 missing occasions for 305 children not in the care of the local authority** – missing episode between 01 April 2018 and 31 March 2019. An increase in both episodes and young people.
- The LSCB receives data from a wide range of partners across a range of safeguarding subjects: The Full LSCB Performance Scorecard and Highlight Assurance Report Template can be found on the LSCB website <http://www.lcitylscb.org/about-the-lscb/>

MEETING OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Leicester Safeguarding Children Board strategic priorities are outlined in its two-year strategic business plan which was agreed in April 2018. The LSCB has several statutory functions which are set out in Working Together 2015. In addition to these core functions the LSCB has set out several key priorities that have been defined locally to ensure statutory compliance, strong governance of the partnership and that the welfare of children in the local area is promoted.



At the heart of the plan is the lived experience and voice of children, especially those who are the most vulnerable as well as the views of frontline practitioners. The Plan aims to ensure that children and young people of Leicester are safeguarded and that services designed to support them are well coordinated and are effective in preventing harm and in keeping them safe.

The LSCB key priorities during 2018/19 were as follows:



The Board also identified five key areas of priority and themes to focus and prioritise its work on, these include:

- Thresholds, early help, front door, private fostering and transitions
- Identifying and responding to multiple vulnerabilities and complex cases including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), unborn babies and vulnerable infants
- Child Sexual Abuse including Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficked Children
- Understanding the impact of poverty, austerity and deprivation on neglect, emotional harm and physical harm
- Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing including learning from suicides.

Cross cutting themes across the LSCB priorities and activities are recognising and addressing:

- Keeping children and young people safe
- Quality Practice, Quality Services and Effective Workforce Development
- Effective Transitions into adulthood

LSCB Strategic Priority – 1: Access to services

Ensure children and young people in dangerous circumstances have faster, easier access to safeguarding support

The LSCB has assured itself regarding the effectiveness of the services and practice provided to safeguard children in need and protection and ensured that the child's lived experience through multi-agency safeguarding systems is effective (including the protection of the most vulnerable children). The LSCB has received a spotlight report at each of its Strategic Board meeting to understand the current response by the multi-agency safeguarding system for children in particular circumstances. This is demonstrated in the exploration of the child's journey through the multi-agency safeguarding system below.

Children in Specific Circumstances

Allegations against people who work with children

The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and is governed by the Local Authority's duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Leicester City Safeguarding Children Board's Inter-Agency Policy and Procedures. The LADO is employed by Leicester City Council and is based within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit. Their core business is to advise, manage and investigate allegations of abuse made against people who work with children and young people under various arrangements (paid, unpaid, volunteers, casual, agency or anyone self-employed).

The LADO is responsible for:

- Providing advice, information and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations around allegations and concerns regarding paid and unpaid workers.
- Managing and overseeing individual cases from all partner agencies.
- Understanding the child's lived experiences through ensuring appropriate arrangements are made for the child to have an opportunity to express their views (i.e. identifying the adult who would speak to the child at the point of initial meetings/discussion).

- Ensuring there is a consistent, fair and thorough process for all adults working with children and young people against whom an allegation is made.
- Monitoring the progress of cases to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible.
- Recommending a referral and chairing the strategy meeting in cases where the allegation requires investigation by police and/or social care.

The LSCB received a full report in September 2018 setting out the numbers of allegations and their outcomes, this included data by agency and provided evidence of how they had worked to ensure the voice of the child was embedded in the process.

The LSCB will receive the full 2018/19 LADO Report at their Strategy Board meeting in September 2019 and will bring challenge and scrutiny as appropriate to ensure they are assured that children who are the subject of LADO procedures are adequately safeguarded.

Children and Criminal Justice

In September 2018 the LSCB received highlight reports from NLR Criminal Rehabilitation Company (CRC), National Probation Service (NPS) and HIMP training inspection for Leicester Youth Offending Service, in order to better understand how children were safeguarded and protected in the work undertaken by these services.

The assurance report noted that the **CRC** generally manage medium risk offenders, however it was noted that this can be misinterpreted, as medium offenders covers a huge range. The definition is that they have the potential to cause serious harm, but not imminently. This can be very difficult to manage and includes a significant amount of domestic abuse perpetrators.

The LSCB informed the group of the national shortage of qualified probation officers which is a national issue and the national training strategy is still not producing enough officers and there are significant funding issues. It was confirmed that the separation between NPS and CRC will continue although the structural split has been a challenge and has made things more complicated.

The CRC assurance report noted that they are subject to annual inspections and agreed with MH that obtaining useful local data is a challenge. It was confirmed that inspections have a heavy emphasis on safeguarding. Every Case Essentials, a clear, one-page document which advises what needs to be done was discussed with the group. The LSCB welcomed the report and requested sight of the CRC Safeguarding Internal Audit action plan along with a related progress report as further assurance.

The **NPS** assurance report provided context and background around changes within the probation system, noting that further changes nationally are expected. The group were also informed that a regional structure change is currently in progress and Leicestershire will move from the Midlands to East Midlands, which should provide better alignment.

It was noted that NPS generally manage high and very high-risk offenders. MH stated that pulling out quality local data is a challenge and that NPS has relevant policies and procedures, and staff have been made aware of the LLR LSCB procedures and website to access these. Assurance was provided around the fact that the neglect toolkit has been circulated. In terms of quality assurance, NPS were inspected by HMIP in terms of initial feedback, an overall good rating has been achieved, with case assessment scored as outstanding.

The LSCB were assured that whenever an offender under probation supervision is charged with a serious sexual or violent offence, the need for a Serious Further Offence (SFO) review is considered. Any appropriate learning around this will be provided at relevant a future Board meeting. The LSCB acknowledged this was very thorough assessment which provided good assurance.

The LSCB was provided with the headlines in relation to the ***YOS HMIP Training Inspection*** and noted that feedback was very positive and picked up key strengths. It was noted that if they were to give a grading, it would be 'good'. Further work was identified around there being too many targets, and the joining up of plans and the quality of the work was recognised. The LSCB noted a decrease in demand within the Youth Offending Service (YOS), which equated to over 50% reduction in demand for services, which has subsequently led to cuts in partnership with the Youth Offending Management Board, and a review of the YOS is underway. The LSCB welcome the assurance provided.

Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficked Children

The multi-agency CSE, Missing and Trafficking Hub with the co-location of key professionals has ensured a coordinated response to the identification and response to those children and young people at risk.

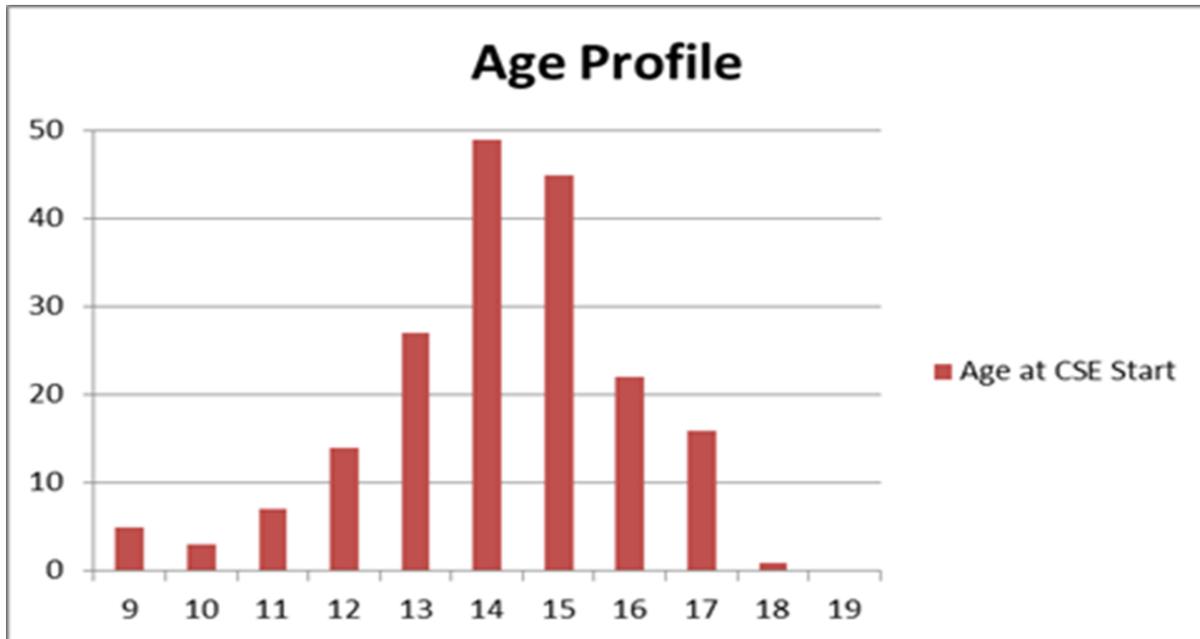
The LSCB spotlight on CSE at their Strategic Board in September received assurance regarding the approach being taken to address CSE, Missing and Trafficked Children and data as follows:

- **Prevention** – focussing on victim and perpetrators, based on an understanding of the local profile
- **Protection** – places CSE within a wider context of risk/harm identifying wider patterns and necessary safeguards
- **Provision** – assistance and ongoing support should recognise need, supporting young people to assist their own recovery
- **Pursue** – collaborative approach should identify the local profile, disrupt and pursue criminal offences
- **Partnership** – a multi-agency collaborative approach with statutory partners and voluntary agencies demonstrating effective information sharing

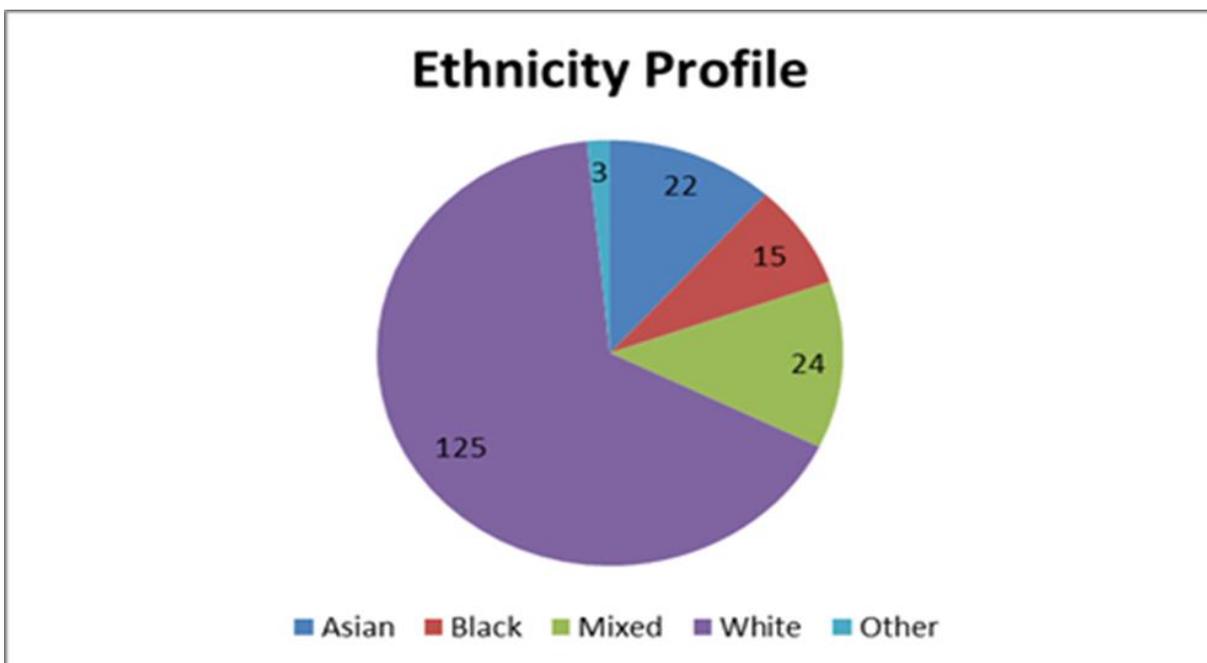
The CSE, Missing and Trafficked Hub Performance and Quality Assurance Framework has been developed to build upon the multi-agency work of the CSE Operational Group and provide

comprehensive performance monitoring and data for 2018/19. The framework includes data across several domains including the numbers and factors of young people at risk, as well as the identification of perpetrators, locations of concern and disruption tactics deployed.

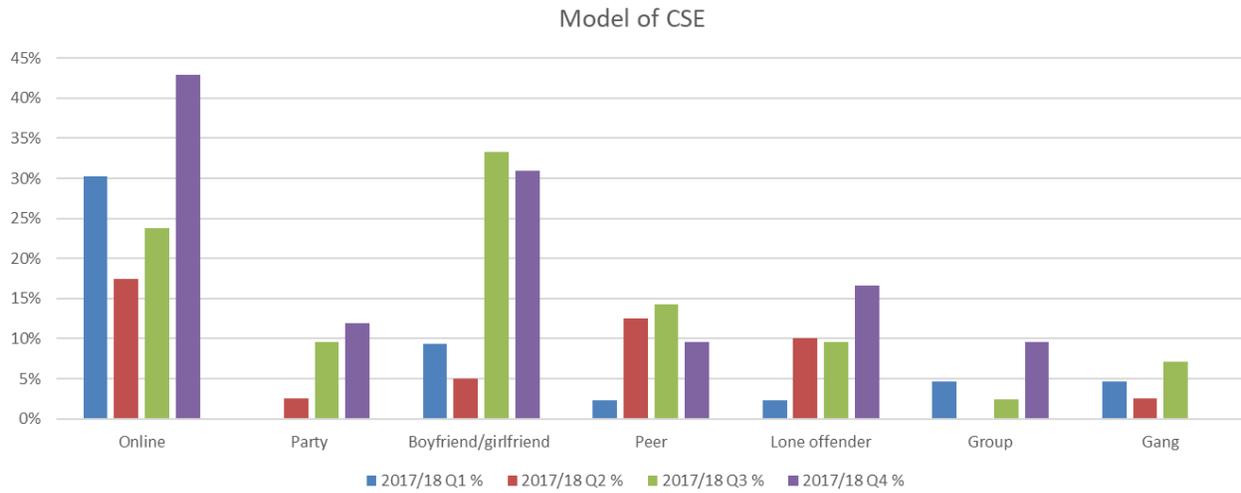
The CSE, Missing and Trafficked team have been involved with **189** children since April 2017 (as at August 2018). **28** children have had more than one episode, their age profile is shown below.



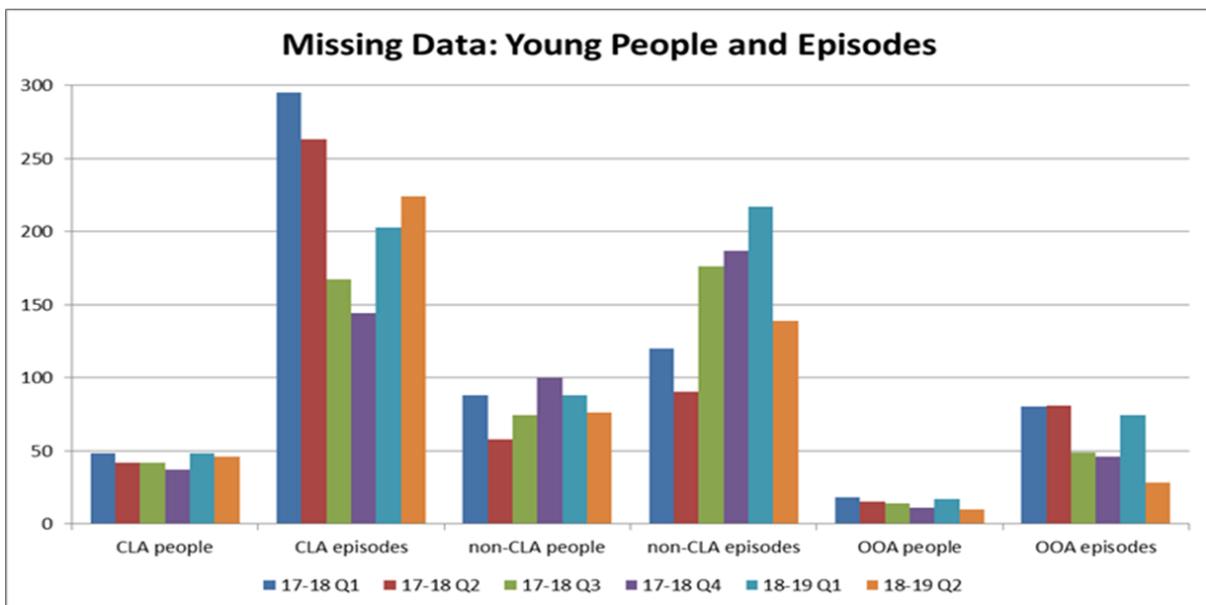
- The most prevalent age range is 14-16 years



- Children and young people are predominantly from a White/British background



The 'Online' model was the most prominent model of CSE for each Quarter which is reflective of the way that young people communicate and interact with each other, form friendships/relationships. The last two Quarters also saw an increase in the Boyfriend/Girlfriend model. This is in keeping with the regional findings.



Over the year there had been a quarter by quarter reduction in the number of missing episodes for LAC young people but an increase in those missing from home. There was also an increase in children who are not LAC episodes – these are explored to understand the impact of the Missing Return Interviews. The board agreed that more information was required around children missing from education and this assurance was provided at the Strategic Board meeting in December 2018.

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS - LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE

Within Leicestershire Police, the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) referral process has now been realigned to ensure that all CSE Public Protection Notices (PPNs which are electronic child vulnerability referral forms) are triaged daily by the Child Referral Team and graded as High, Medium or Low. High risk cases are shared immediately with Children's Social Care for the arrangement of a 'Strategy Discussion'. Low risk cases are shared with partners for their information and medium risk cases are referred to the multi-agency Daily Risk Management Meeting which takes place every week day within the Safeguarding Hub at Wigston Police Station. This has streamlined and increased the efficiency of the process as well as ensuring that vulnerable children are identified, assessed and supported effectively and perpetrators are also identified and managed effectively.

The Multi Agency Monthly CSE meeting has been changed to better reflect the business going forward and is now the Multi Agency Monthly Exploitation Meeting to incorporate all forms of exploitation such as criminal exploitation and 'County Lines' and not solely sexual exploitation. This has been mirrored by partners and their CSE Operation Group Meeting is now the Child Exploitation Operation Group Meeting. These then feed in at the strategic level to the recently remodelled Vulnerability Executive, chaired by a Leicestershire Police Assistant Chief Constable.

The LLR Child Sexual Exploitation Operations Group has been revised to include all children at risk of contextual safeguarding and in April 2018 was renamed the LLR Child Criminal Exploitation Operations Group with a revised Terms of Reference and dataset. This Group is due to report further on this at the LSCB Strategic Board meeting in September 2019.

Children with Disabilities

Research shows that disabled children and young people are more likely to be at the risk of abuse than their non-disabled peers and experience barriers to being effectively safeguarded and protected from child protection services. In December 2018 the LSCB received a highlight report, in order to:

- better understand the protection of disabled children and to seek assurance that there was consistent application of the LLR LSCB multi-agency safeguarding procedures and threshold.
- seek assurance that partner agencies were appropriately identifying and responding to the needs of disabled children.
- capture any learning needs which support improvement in practice aimed at strengthening safeguarding for children.

This report detailed that between 30 April 2018 and 4 May 2018, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Leicester to judge the effectiveness

of the area in implementing the special educational needs and disability reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

As a result of the findings of this inspection it was determined that a written statement of action was required because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice. HMCI has also determined that the local authority and the area's clinical commissioning group were jointly responsible for submitting the written statement of action to Ofsted.

SEND Data 2 July 2018 (DfE) indicates that pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) attending state-funded special schools have seen a year on year increase since January 2010 from **38.2% to 44.2% in January 2018**. In the City, just over **7,000** children were identified as having SEND and requiring school support., **12.6%** of the total number of pupils in maintained schools.

Following the joint area review referred to above, identified strengths and areas for development were outlined in a letter from HMCI. The five key areas of concern identified were:

1. The lack of strategic planning to improve the outcomes for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities.
2. The poor quality of the education, health and care (EHC) plans
3. The assessment of children and young people's social care needs
4. The lack of joint commissioning of services to support young people's health needs post-19
5. The disjointed approach to preparation for adulthood.

A Written Statement of Action was co-created, as required, by the Local Authority, Health and partners aiming to address each of the identified areas of concern. The plan was reviewed and subsequently accepted by Ofsted as a viable plan.

A SEND Improvement Board was created for the purpose of "owning" this action plan and to make sure all the actions were being completed in time. This Board meets on a bi-monthly basis to review the actions and discuss any other matters relating to SEND. The LSCB has requested a further assurance report to their Strategic Board meeting in July 2019.

In February 2019 the Chair of the LSCB met with the Big Mouth Forum (BMF) and heard about their activities as follows:

- Big Mouth Forum have continued to deliver outreach to young people about speaking out about hate crime.
- Big Mouth Forum have broadened their offer by updating their website.
- Interview panels have been supported by both Young People's Council and Big Mouth Forum across various levels of posts.
- Big Mouth Forum worked on health reforms and transitions.

- Big Mouth Forum met with Arriva, Stagecoach and Active First to explore independent travel and safety in the community.
- Big Mouth Forum have supported agencies including Sendiass to improve their offer to young people in education.
- Flat 108 has continued to allow young people to develop their skills for independent living, Big Mouth Forum have continued to support with the Flat 108 offer.

Because of this interaction the LSCB Chair, Jenny Myers is planning to meet with the BMF lead to further explore how the BMF can assist the LSCB in ensuring the voice of young people with disabilities is on the represented on LSCB safeguarding agenda and the work it does through its Strategic Business Plan.

Domestic, Sexual Violence and Abuse

Domestic, Sexual Violence and Abuse are a priority for the LSCB and the responsibility for delivery sits with the Safer Leicester Partnership. The LSCB receives assurance reports twice a year from a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) partnership operational delivery group which meets to discuss emerging issues. The LSCB holds the partnership organisations and agencies to account regarding their contribution to the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are at risk or in need because of domestic, sexual violence and abuse.

The LSCB at its meeting in September 2018 received an update on the development of the LLR Domestic, Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy, the associated dataset and the transfer of Domestic, Sexual Violence and Abuse Operational Group into the wider LLR Vulnerability Executive. At this meeting it was reported that this transfer, the strategy and dataset was still in its early stages and a further report would be provide to the LSCB in due course.

The LSCB challenged progress with the development of the LLR Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy and the associated dataset and in ensuring that it adequately reflected the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare. Within the year 2018/2019, the DSVA has redesigned its structure and governance arrangements and its strategic objectives have been agreed by the new LLR Vulnerability Executive. It is now pushing forward in 2019/2020 to deliver in the areas the refreshed needs assessment has identified and other areas of priority across LLR.

Operation Encompass has also evolved and information relating to all reported Domestic Abuse incidents involving children is shared with Children's Social Care on a daily basis for onward sharing with the child's educational setting.

The headline data for Children and young People is on the next page and illustrates the numbers of children receiving a service because of a form of domestic, sexual violence and abuse. This shows that 452 children and young people were referred and that 88% reported feeling safer on exiting services.

Leicester City Sexual and Domestic Violence Data – Children and Young People (12 months to 31 March 2019)

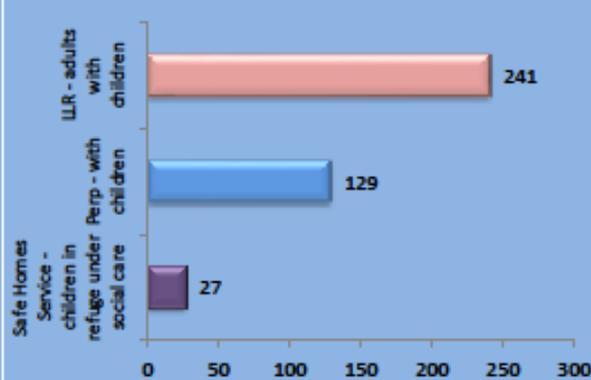
Leicester City Council Commissioned Sexual and Domestic Violence Service (CYPFS)

	There were 452 children and young people referred		88% of children exiting the service said they feel safer
	285 new children and young people received one to one support (CYPFS contract)		92% of children reported improved health and well-being outcomes
	11 service users aged 13-18 accessed support to change their abusive behaviour		Schools report 87% of children and young people improved attendance at school

Families referred (Last 12 months)



DVSV Services - Adults with CYP



Safe Lives Children's Insights Data Last 12 months – Abuse Data

	89% of children were 'at home' when the abuse took place		59% of children were a direct witness or exposed to abuse of a parent/family member
	57% of children were direct victims of abuse by a parent/family member		In 61% of cases the child was known to Social Services
	In 4% of cases the child had been injured as a result of the abuse of a parent		57% of children were subject to emotional abuse as a result of the abuse of a parent

Early Help

The Leicester Early Help Strategy Support Strengthen Thrive 2016-19 was developed by partners through the Early Help Strategic Partnership Board (which is underpinned by the Children's Trust and LSCB). Partners have ownership of the strategy and are clear on the expectations of them to support families through an early help offer as outlined within the strategy. Early Help work in Leicester is embedded within a range of strategies: 0 – 5 Strategy, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Child Poverty Strategy, Children & Young People's plan, the national Troubled Families Programme and within commissioned services.

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS - CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Children's Social Care and Early Help Division has continued working in close partnership with children, families and stakeholders to deliver good quality services and improve outcomes for children and families. We have maintained:

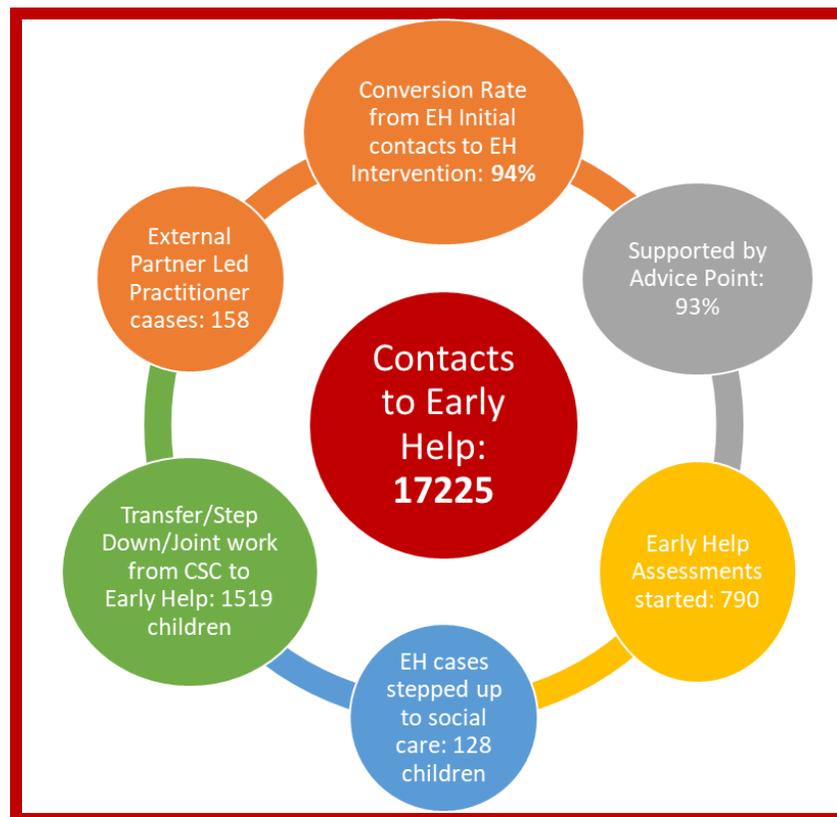
- Good relationships across Strategic Boards (Schools, Scrutiny Commission, LSCB, Children's Trust, Early Help Strategic Partnership Board, Leicester Education Strategic Partnership, LLR Vulnerabilities Executive group etc)
- Strong relationships across Operational partnership: MASP; Strategy meetings are working together compliant and well attended by a variety of professionals; Early Help allocation Partnership hub arrangements have contributed to an improvement in a partnership response to supporting families at an early help threshold; MARAC; MAPPA
- Well embedded Operation Encompass
- Overall improving services across the whole division
- Children's Social Care and Early Help Division have also chaired a number of key subgroups for both LSCB and shared workstreams across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- The LSCB Business Office is hosted and managed within their Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit.

In addition, following a successful pilot, in January 2019 the advocacy offer was agreed and embedded across Children Social Care and EH Division. The offer is aimed mainly to children and young people subject to Child Protection Plans and Looked After by LCC, however there is flexibility in being extended to other cohorts of children.

The LSCB Strategic Board received assurance reports regarding the number of contacts to early help and that a high percentage are supported through Advice Point. At its meeting in July 2018 the Strategic board received an Early Help Thematic Assurance report which provided assurance on:

- Multi Agency Training Programme on a range of topics including 'What is Early Help' and Read access to Liquid Logic
- Multi agency workforce matters newsletter sharing good practice, key updates, networking and training opportunities

- Development of the Early Help Partnership Allocations Hub to provide a multi-agency response to the allocation of EHA's to the most appropriate agency to become the Lead Professional/Practitioner
- Utilising existing commissioning arrangements to reflect the requirement for agencies to undertake the LP role for Early Help Assessments EHA.
- Leicester City Council early help webpages reviewed and refreshed to provide clarity on the role of the LP and EHA principles. This included guidance to reduce duplication for schools where there was an Education Health Care Plan in place, but support was required to address whole family problems.
- Secured funding from Leicester Educational Partnership Operations Group (LESPOG) to develop a 'Early Help Guide for Schools' supporting schools directly to implement this fully evidencing how they support students and families.
- An audit of the Early Help Strategy commissioned by Leicester Children's Trust.
- Development of one multi agency referral form across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for social care and the early help assessment.
- Implementing signs of safety approaches within MASP, EHA Partnership Allocations Hub with free SOS training for 30 partners.
- Expansion of the EHA Co-ordinators Team to support schools with setting up EHA processes.



The board has continued to seek assurance on the number of Early Help Assessments (EHA) taking place and has challenged its partners to consider how it can increase the number of EHA it undertakes within its agency and acts as lead professional for. At the start of the year this remained a risk register item for the LSCB with the LSCB Performance, Analysis and Assurance Group (PAAG) taking the lead on receiving assurance and highlighting any issues for early help to the LSCB Strategic Board.

These arrangements have meant that the board has during 2018-19 received assurance on:

- the quality of early help assessments, planning and management oversight through effective audit arrangements
- local quality standards to ensure that early help professionals have access to effective supervision and management oversight
- the effectiveness of the LSCB threshold document to ensure it is understood and used appropriately by all partner agencies and that children and families are helped effectively as a result
- whether children's emerging needs are appropriately met elsewhere when referrals to children's social care do not meet the locally agreed threshold for statutory intervention
- ensuring that all professionals working with families receive effective early help training.

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Understanding the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people has been a key priority for the LSCB in 2018/19. Receiving assurance on waiting times for CAMHS services has remained on the LSCB Risk Register, with challenge and scrutiny taking place throughout the year. In September 2018 the LSCB received an assurance report in response to their challenge on children on the CAMHS waiting list and concerns around the number of children waiting for first assessment.

Clarity was requested regarding the pathway for schools and it was agreed that further work would be progressed around this. Part of the ongoing work includes an application for the trailblazer programme which will help schools shape their thinking and work face to face with individual children covering ten schools. It was noted that the key issues from the school data are obesity, domestic abuse and mental health.

An assurance report was then presentation by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust as a spotlight at the September 2018 Strategic Board. This report provided assurance on the progress by the LPT CAMHS Improvement Programme to increase the efficacy and efficiency of the service.

At the time of the report fourteen Children and Young People (CYP) from Leicester were waiting for assessment to be completed. Once it has been determined that a CYP would benefit from treatment or further specialist assessment by Specialist CAMHS they are formally accepted into CAMHS and their GP and referrer are informed. CYP may then be placed on one or more waiting lists for treatment and, or further specialist assessment. Waiting lists include; Neurodevelopmental assessment, further Psychiatric opinion, Psychodynamic Psychotherapy and Psychological therapies.

As a child and young people may be waiting for another treatment whilst also being in treatment (e.g. has been commenced on medication and is waiting for psychological therapy), careful analysis of the waiting lists has been necessary to determine how many CYP are being actively cared for. This analysis identified that in September 2018, 1447 CYP were on waiting lists for treatment.

Of these CYP

- 776 were currently receiving another treatment
- 111 have received one form of treatment and were waiting for another treatment to start
- 560 CYP were waiting for their first treatment or further assessment to start

A key focus of the CAMHS Improvement programme is to ensure improved data quality and therefore validity of detailed waiting list information. During any of these treatment processes further interventions may be required and care is co-ordinated between each of the treatments.

The report also gave an overview of the LPT Specialist CAMHS Traffic Light system which is used as a clinical risk management process with their Duty Team to assess and mitigate risk.



The report also referenced several resources that are available to CYP and parents which can be access on the LSCB website Mental Health pages. The report concluded with next steps to reduce avoidable harm and key messages as to how the partnership can support this.

The Strategic Board has continued to provide scrutiny and challenge regarding the progress and pace within the CAMHS Improvement Plan and the Independent Chair and LCC Strategic Director met with their Interim Chief Nurse in March 2019 and wrote to the Chair of their Executive Board for further assurance. A further assurance report is due at the LSCB Strategic Board meeting in July 2019.

The LSCB also received assurance on progress with the learning for the partnership following the publication, in May 2018, of the multi-agency learning and improvement review into the tragic death

of Brandon Rayat. This report is available on the LSCB website and can be downloaded at: <http://www.lcitylscb.org/media/1464/20180501-brandon-summary-report-final-npw.pdf>

At the end of the review the Independent Char met with Brandon's mother to share the learning from the review, as well as to discuss the key findings and recommendations. Brandon's mother on hearing the findings welcomed the report and provided the following response:



'If I could tell practitioners and professionals one thing about what would make the most difference to children in similar circumstances to Brandon, it would be that they need to listen to mothers around what is happening for their child - they are with them every day and know their child best.'

We are grateful to both of Brandon's parents for their contribution to this review and for giving us the opportunity to meet with them in person as part of the process. One of the outcomes of this review is the delivery of the 'Learning from when young people take their lives' conference which will be an annual event.

Multi-Agency Referral Form

The LLR LSCB Procedures Development Group (PDG) have overseen the revision of the shared Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) during 2018/19. This has resulted in the development of one electronic LLR Multi Agency form to access local authority early help services and to make a children's social care referral. The form was agreed through partner consultation to reflect the *Signs of Safety* approach and the changes as a result of:

- The General Data Processing Regulations 2018
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

The format and content of the MARF 2018 was agreed at the LLR LSCB PDG on in November 2018 and work was undertaken subsequently to amend recording systems in partner organisations and to develop a launch and communications strategy which was implemented at the beginning of April 2019. The revised MARF and guidance have been incorporated in the LLR Multi-Agency Training Programme 2019 and can be found at: <http://www.lcitylscb.org/what-to-do-if-you-are-concerned-about-a-child/>

Since the MARF has been in operation agencies have refined their internal reporting concerns procedures and data systems and are reported that this is working well to ensure the right children are referred at the right time.

Reporting Concerns

Information about how to make a referral to the council, access to the MARF form and how to request further support is available on the link below:

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-social-care/>

The screenshot shows the Leicester City Council website. The main heading is 'Children's social care'. Below this, there is a 'Quick links' section with a highlighted link: 'Report concerns about the safety and welfare of a child'. Other sections include 'Duty and Advice Service' and 'How to make a referral'. The page also features a sidebar with 'In this section' and 'Share this page' options.

Leicester
Safeguarding
Children Board

Thresholds for Access to Services

Developing local threshold criteria is one of a Local Safeguarding Children Board's core functions. As Working Together 2018 states: *"It is important that there are clear criteria for taking action and providing help across this full continuum. Having clear thresholds for action which are understood by all professionals, and applied consistently, should ensure that services are commissioned effectively and that the right help is given to the child at the right time"* (para. 16).

The LLR LCB Procedures and Development Group updated the *Thresholds for access to services for children and families* document in April 2018 to ensure that all practitioners are aware of their responsibility to provide universal and early help services and when they should make a referral to children's social care and early help services. The revised inter-agency procedures for a wide range of subjects including the thresholds document can be found here: <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/>

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS - LEICESTER CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

Between 1st April 2018-31st March 2019 the LLR CCG Safeguarding Team: Named GP Safeguarding delivered 4 quarterly GP forums with an average of 40 GP practices represented at each one by their GP Safeguarding Lead.

The aim of the LLR GP forum includes fostering effective professional relationships between GPs and the multi-agency partnership through direct discussions about safeguarding children issues. This enables GPs to build on their knowledge base and basic safeguarding children training to effectively safeguard the children in their registered practice population.

- The LLR GP Safeguarding forum has received presentations from external speakers including from social care, the police and health agencies.
- LLR GPs have been able to engage in discussing over 30 safeguarding topics including those messages from Child Serious Case Reviews which have require changes to be made in GP practice.
- The forums have received positive reviews and feedback by the GPs including that GPs have a much clearer idea of how to manage safeguarding issues in GP practice settings
- This work has been further strengthened by the 2018/19 refresh of the GP Children's Safeguarding Quality Makers GP Self-assessment tool. This tool outlines to GP practices what safeguarding processes and procedures are required to be in place to ensure that GP can recognise and respond to child safeguarding concerns.
- The impact of the dialogue and discussions from both the GP forums and Children's Safeguarding Quality Makers GP Self-assessment tool is raising the profile of children's safeguarding across the Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland GP Practices. This is evident in continuous increased GP engagement with the GP forums and GP safeguarding children training and domestic abuse briefings.

During 2019/20 a review of GP Safeguarding Children Training will take place in line with the requirements of the refreshed *Intercollegiate Guidance: safeguarding children and young people: roles and competencies for health care staff: 2019*

LSCB Strategic Priority – 2

Safeguarding Effectiveness

The LSCB is to be assured that there is evidence to consistently demonstrate that children and young people are effectively safeguarded.

Performance, Assurance and Analysis Group (PAAG) is the lead multi-agency group for ensuring that Priority 2 of the LSCB is met. During 2018/2019 PAAG has met on a quarterly basis to review and report on monitoring data as well as the outcomes of audits, reviews and assurance responses from individual agencies.

The aligned LSCB dataset with Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB now follows the journey of the child and has resulted in improved submission by partner agencies, discussion and identification of common issues across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Thus, allowing consideration of shared priorities between both Boards, for example themes for LSCB multiagency audits. Key issues identified by PAAG is reported to both the LSCB Core Business and Chairs Executive Group and the LSCB.

Assurance activity includes multiagency case file audits, which evaluate the quality of safeguarding practice of practitioners working across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The audits are carried out through the **Multi-Agency Case File Audit Group (MACFA)**. Audit findings and recommendations are reported to the PAAG and key messages are taken to the LSCB Core Business, Chairs Executive Group and the LSCB.

During 2018-2019 the LSCB multiagency audit programme included conducting and reporting on the following audits: **CSE audit; Familial Sexual Abuse; Domestic Abuse and Children Who Go Missing**. These audits were undertaken in conjunction with Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB. This work included aligning the audit themes, process and tools with the Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB. Learning from audits is triangulated with LSCB performance data and other assurance information including findings from reviews to inform PAAG and LSCB work programme. Learning from audits is also disseminated to managers and practitioners through the LSCB network, the LSCB website, LSCB newsletters, LSCB training events and Lunch and Learn sessions to inform safeguarding practice.

Following the publication of *Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018)*, the development of the new multiagency safeguarding arrangements, including what effectiveness and assurance activity would look like, is in progress for publication in June 2019.

During 2018/2019, a range of key issues were considered by PAAG, including the following:

- Over the year, there was an increase in the number of **initial contacts** made to Children Social Care, but the number that were considered as requiring a service from Children Social Care was lower. This is due to the robust screening for a service and advice given by Children Social

Care which shows that this is working well. The work around improving the quality of referrals within Midwifery service is also working well, as midwives are asking more questions about safeguarding resulting in the most relevant cases/concerns being referred to Children Social Care, rather than all cases. There was no concern identified regarding practitioners' understanding and application of the Thresholds to access a service for Children's Social Care and Early Help Service.

- The percentage of **Section 47 enquiries** (child protection investigations) completed in 15 days has steadily increased over the year from **88.2%** to **97.7%** at the end of year. This is important as this is a legal requirement and enquiries should be completed within this timescale, however there may be cases that are so complex that they cannot be concluded within 15 days although plans to keep children safe will already be in place.
- The low level of partner agency engagement and attendance to **Initial Child Protection Conferences** (ICPCs) resulting in ICPC meetings not being quorate and therefore being cancelled was identified. Following discussion at the LSCB, the Independent Chair of the LSCB asked Board partners to ensure that there is partner agency engagement and representation at ICPCs to help safeguard children. Children Social Care also undertook work to improve the Child Protection Conference (CPC) process. Both actions resulted in an increase in partner agency engagement and representation at ICPCs, and an increase in the number of ICPCs where the report by the social worker was sent to the parents within 48 hours and the Chair of the Conference within 2 days of the Conference.
- There was a significant reduction in the number of children on a **Child Protection Plan** (CPP) and in the number of children becoming subject to CCP for a second or subsequent time. There was scrutiny from partner agencies in this area and through audit activity to assure the Board that children are being safeguarded (and not left at risk). The reduction in the number of children on CPPs was a direct result of the focused work with children, families, partner agencies undertaken by Children Social Care, as well as the increased capacity within the Safeguarding Unit, Children Social Care and Early Help.
- Over the year, the quality and access of children and young people to the **Child Adolescent Mental Health Service** (CAMHS) was identified. This was discussed at the LSCB, and the Board was particularly concerned about how children waiting for a service from CAMHS were being kept safe. The Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provided assurance to the LSCB that children were receiving the appropriate service from CAMHS and explained how those children who were waiting for a service were being supported to keep them safe. This issue has continued to be scrutinised by the LSCB.
- The Board identified that there is need to understand the **impact of austerity** as well as poverty on children and families living in Leicester. The Board agreed that this should be

considered by the Leicester Children’s Trust Board and issues identified in relation to safeguarding and promoting children’s welfare reported to the Board.

- There was an increase in **sexual abuse paediatric examinations** conducted at SARC Northampton, due to an escalation of requests to conduct a sexual abuse paediatric examination. These examinations are more holistic than considered by Leicestershire Police and previous physicals are now recorded as sexual abuse paediatric examinations. Children who were not getting these examinations previously, are getting them now, which is a positive outcome.
- The group identified that assurance was required on **Initial Health Assessments (IHAs)** as to the quality of partnership working in promoting the health, wellbeing and safeguarding Looked After Children (LAC) Assurance was requested in relation to this including Review Health Assessments, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and Leaving Care Summaries. This led to PAAG receiving confirmation that information regarding IHAs is considered and scrutinised in other fora and assurance is sought from the relevant lead officers to avoid duplication of PAAG also scrutinising this data.
- As highlighted in the section in Priority 1, the number of allegations received by **the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** has fluctuated from 71 to 92 throughout the year and as a result is to be continued to be monitored by PAAG.
- Confirmation was also received that the **Local Authority Partnership Performance** meetings were working well, with partners reporting that issues and concerns escalated are being considered and progressed.
- PAAG also received the outcome of the **Neglect** survey, examples of what people said were:



It helps to clarify and pin point areas of concerns

Use of neglect toolkit is encouraged

The tool needs to be used more often, so that it is used as an assessment tool, rather than a piece of work with families that we have concerns with, to ensure that neglect is prevented and dealt with

Inspection outcomes

Cafcass - Ofsted undertook its second national inspection of Cafcass, making an overall judgement of outstanding. Ofsted found that practice was effective and authoritative, helping courts to make child-centred and safe decisions, adding value and leading to better outcomes for children. The overall judgement was influenced by many factors including: the exceptional corporate and operational leadership; sensitive and knowledgeable direct work undertaken with children in relation to a wide range of diversity issues; the culture of continuous learning and improvement; and a strong aspiration to 'get it right' for vulnerable children.

Leicester City Council - The previous inspection report published of the local authority's safeguarding arrangements and arrangements for the protection of children was in September 2017. The local authority was judged to be Requiring Improvement, with Good Leadership, Management and Governance and Good Adoption performance. The Ofsted [monitoring visits](#) have concluded that Leicester City Council continue to make good progress and '*a strong, permanent and well-focused senior leadership team has built on the progress seen at that inspection*'.

Leicestershire Police - The force has received a "Good" rating from [HMIC](#) in the most recent series of inspections, focusing on efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy. Areas singled out for good practice were;

- Partnership working with local authorities and the National Health Service
- Understanding and identifying vulnerability

HMICFRS recognised Leicestershire Police as being 'good' at protecting vulnerable people stating that 'It has a strong commitment to helping those in most need' The report also states that 'The Force has strong working relationships with other organisations that can help to meet the needs of vulnerable people. They include councils, the voluntary sector and health, education and young people's services. The benefits of this cooperation are clear' (page 16). The report also referenced the high-quality short film entitled 'Breck's Last Game' released in September 2018 which is about Breck Bednar who was groomed and killed in 2014. The film is designed to educate young people, so they are empowered to make safer choices for themselves on-line.

National Probation Service - The divisional case inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, published in October 2018, identified that Assessment and Planning were judged to be 'Outstanding' with Implementation and Delivery deemed to be 'Good'. Feedback was provided outlining that the vision and strategy of the NPS Midlands leadership team supported the delivery of services, and there was a range of services to support desistance from crime. The challenges that remain are high probation officer workloads, staff shortages and some premises issues.

LSCB Strategic Priority – 3

Lived Experience

The LSCB is to ensure that the child's lived experience through multi-agency safeguarding systems is effective including Children Looked After

The LSCB Strategic Business Plan aims to ensure that children and young people of Leicester are safeguarded and that services designed to support them are well coordinated and are effective in preventing harm and in keeping them safe. This is a cross cutting theme that is applied to all assurance and challenge activities that are undertaken by the board and within highlight reports to the Board as detailed in the previous sections. This can also be evidenced in the LSCB's scrutiny of annual reports for children in specific circumstances.

In July 2018 the LSCB received the **Annual Independent Reviewing Officers Service Report 2017/18** and the quality of the work was welcomed and the difference it has made for children and young people. The case studies provided good insight into the lived experience of the children and that the IROs have regular contact with the children, carers and their parents and ultimately are there to act as the 'voice of the child.'

The LSCB noted that the report had received internal challenge as well as quarterly reports as part of the LCC CSC & EH performance report. The LSCB as part of their challenge role asked what more can be done to capture more of the 'so what' and impact of the work and asked that some partners and the Lay Members be invited to the report discussion meeting. It was also agreed that the report would be picked up at the next PAAG meeting to ensure the quality of work and young people's voice is included and the transition from child to adult is considered.

In September 2018 the LSCB received the **Annual Private Fostering Report 2017/18**, it was recognised that while numbers are low under reporting is known to be an issue nationally. As a result, the LSCB partners agreed to ensure that practitioners from their agencies are aware of the requirements and processes. It was noted that it is the duty on the Local Authority to assess children when aware of them and identification is the challenge. Although the numbers are low the difference it has made for children and young people in private fostering arrangements was noted as their living arrangements and needs were being assessed and their views taken account of and responded to.

Further work was agreed across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to develop a communication plan to aid the distribution of Private Fostering information and to raise awareness. This resulted in changes to the private fostering pages on both the local authority website as well as a dedicated page on the LSCB website. The LSCB Newsletter also carried articles linked to the LLR LSCB procedures.

Generation Select Inquiry

During September 2018 members of Leicester City Young People’s Council carried out a city-wide consultation in conjunction with U.K. Youth Parliament colleagues, 3237 young people took part and voted on the top ten issues for young people across the City. The top five issues were then debated in a live debate in the Council Chamber on October 29th. YPC members were then asked to vote for their two preferred campaign issues, they voted for their Generation Select Inquiry to be Mental health services should be improved with more young people helped; and should be available in schools.

As a result, the Generation Select Committee made a call for evidence about the differing experiences of groups of young people in accessing mental health support services (e.g. due to age, ethnicity, gender, disability, socioeconomic background and geographic location) and how these might be overcome. The LSCB Independent Chair and its partners was invited to submit written evidence and to provide oral evidence to the enquiry on 18th February 2019.



The Young People’s Council were keen to hear evidence regarding the LSCB’s Learning Review into the death of Brandon Rayat and the work partners had undertaken since the review. The Young People posed several challenging questions and asked the LSCB to consider how practitioners support them to understand the key messages from reviews and take the learning into consideration when

delivering services to young people. They also asked the board to consider what influence they can bring to bear in the development and delivery of child centred services for mental health.



The LSCB Strategic Board is looking forward to receiving the finished report at its board meeting in September 2019 and considering its findings in terms of their strategic plan and priorities.

Other projects that the LSCB have commissioned or supported through the Participation and Engagement Service include a new 'How will you hear me?' video and a video resource and toolkit for schools and practitioners around coercive control. These have been written and developed by young people in Leicester who have experience of children's services. The 'coercive control' video has been written, acted, produced and directed by local young people and the LSCB board is looking forward to receiving the finished product at its Strategic Board meeting in September 2019.



"The opportunity to be at the helm of such a meaningful piece of work as this mental health inquiry was the reason that I decided to join the Young People's Council. With this report we have given a loudspeaker to young people across the city and I hope that it will be instrumental in vital change being made to Leicester's mental health services for the better." - Grace Read (Panel Member).

LSCB Strategic Priority – 4

How do we learn and improve?

The LSCB is to be assured that the culture and continuous system of single and multi-agency learning, and improvement activity demonstrates it improves outcomes

Serious Incident Review Group (SIRG)

The purpose of the SIRG is to ensure that statutory functions within *Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2015), Chapter 4* in relation to Serious Case Reviews are carried out effectively and contribute to learning and development of improvement. The SIRG also ensures the work of the group contributes to achieving the strategic priorities of the LSCB Strategic Business Plan.

All Partners working with children and young people have a responsibility to ensure the safety of young people, staff and the wider public within the context of the services they provide. During 2018/2019 the SIRG reviewed their protocol *Management of Notifications of Serious Incidents and Serious Case Reviews* to take account of the revised requirements for serious incident notification and rapid reviews. This has resulted in a robust process to support LSCB Partners to effectively notify the LSCB of and undertaken rapid reviews against the statutory guidance and to ensure its compliance with the statutory changes resulting from the *Children and Social Work Act 2017* and *Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018: Transitional Guidance*. The SIRG process is designed to:

- To support practical planning and preparation
- To manage and quality assure the process including immediate improvements
- To structure reflection retrospectively on the review and identify improvements for future SCRs.

This helps to ensure that the SIRG can make robust recommendations to the LSCB Chair in relation to individual cases and whether they meet the criteria for either a Serious Case Review or other learning review. Where a case does not meet the criteria, the pathway allows constructive feedback to be given to organisations regarding any learning for their own organisation or to commission a thematic audit. Previous cases commissioned have been reviewed, the learning consolidated and to ensure key learning from each case has been disseminated to front-line practitioners.

During 2018/2019 the SIRG was notified of seven notifiable incidents involving ten children. As a result, the LSCB has four Serious Case Reviews underway and is completing a multi-agency thematic learning review on four of the cases involving pre-birth and babies.

In March 2019, the LSCB published the learning from two non-recent Serious Case Reviews published in the pseudonyms of **Nadiya** and **Robyn**. Both reviews consider the serious harm suffered by the two young babies and the inter-agency response to safeguard them when known to a range of services.

Leicester Safeguarding Children Board

Robyn when aged 5 months old, was presented at the emergency department by her parents, with a swollen right leg. Medical investigations identified that Robyn had a spiral fracture to her leg which was deemed a non-accidental injury.

OVERVIEW

Subsequent investigations discovered that there were fractures of the right femur, ribs and lower left leg. These fractures were said to have occurred on at least three separate occasions and required at least five separate applications of force.

OVERVIEW

Robyn came to the attention of agencies on several occasions prior to the injuries becoming known, primarily due to poor home conditions, neglectful care and concerns regarding the mental health of the father and mother. Both her mother and father had been known to CSC as children themselves.

LEARNING

Bruising was seen on Robyn the previous month by a GP and was presented hospital three days later with blood in vomit. Multiple bruising was seen by the Health Visitor the following week. Despite Robyn being a non-independently mobile baby Child Protection procedures were not followed by CSC.

LEARNING

'Baby Robyn 2014'

Serious Case Review
published March 2019

LEARNING

In the pre-birth period there were enough indicators of risk to predict potential harm. There were systemic failures across the partnership in respect of bruising to non-mobile babies and a disregard for the existing policy.

LEARNING

The father's very worrying thoughts were considered low risk by the GP, and the family were not assessed or visited by Children's Social Care (CSC), despite visible bruising and the mental health revelations until the thigh injury that led to hospitalisation.

LEARNING

There was a failure to properly refer and investigate the bruising in the month before injuries were diagnosed. The GPs failed to refer or seek expert medical advice on bruising to a non-mobile child.

LEARNING

Despite evidence to the contrary, professionals displayed optimism about the parent's ability to provide appropriate care for Robyn. The range of risk factors known regarding both parents were not investigated or interrogated in a meaningful way.

Both reviews found significant and worrying system and practice issues around:

- Ineffective Child Protection Processes
- The investigation of injuries – failure to consider potential for physical abuse.
- Pre-birth assessment - processes were not followed
- The marginalisation of fathers – their role in the family was ignored
- Parental risk factors not assessed – impact of domestic abuse, substance misuse, relationship instability, mental health and their previous history of parenting was not considered
- Working with parental non-compliance and hostility – was ineffective
- Ineffective information sharing – information regarding risk and vulnerability not shared

The range of risk factors known regarding the parents of both children were therefore not investigated or interrogated in a meaningful way.

However, since the review the LSCB has sought and received assurance that the practice and system issues have been addressed and that the recommendations from the review have been completed. The improvement in practice has also been acknowledged in the recent inspections of services reported to the LSCB as part of their scrutiny and challenge role. The effectiveness of the response to pre-birth and infants will be further tested by a thematic audit during July 2019.

The LSCB also published a multi-agency learning and improvement review in May 2019 following the death of young person by suicide in August 2016 as well as a range of other resources and practitioner briefing which can be found at: <http://www.lcitylscb.org/information-for-practitioners/safeguarding-topics/mental-health/>

Learning and Improvement Framework

The LSCB has since 2017, had an agreed Learning Improvement Framework (LIF) shared across the four Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Boards and Safeguarding Adult Boards (LLR LSCB and LSAB) which is available within the online LLR LSCB interagency procedures at:

http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/learning_improvement.pdf

The LIF describes the processes by which the Safeguarding Boards review the effectiveness of the local safeguarding partnerships and individual agencies by using a comprehensive range of local information to evaluate the quality of local activity and outcomes, against agreed practice standards. The LSCB oversees any areas where single or multi-agency improvement has been identified within safeguarding reviews, audit or safeguarding performance review activity. The LIF is reviewed annually, alongside the suite of documents that underpin it, to take account of any changes to legislation or national guidance.

Multi-Agency Training Group (MATG)

The Multi-Agency Training Group (MATG) co-ordinates and oversees the delivery of the Multi-Agency Training Programme. The group has representatives from all key partner agencies and the training has been delivered through these partners offering their resources, in terms of time, space or finance. This allows a comprehensive programme to be offered which is aligned to the priorities of the business plans of the LSCBs across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR), and any areas of development arising from national and local Serious Case Reviews.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 states:

“Multi-agency training will be important in supporting this collective understanding of local need. Practitioners working in both universal and specialist services have a responsibility to identify the symptoms and triggers of abuse and neglect, to share that information and provide children with the help they need”

To support this the MATG leads development and delivery of an annual training and development programme which is set out in a Work Plan which draws together the priorities from the LSCB Business Plans across LLR and any learning from Serious Caser Reviews. Due to a change in delivery the Multi-Agency Training Programme was suspended for the first quarter of 2018/19 and then began to build to a more comprehensive offer in quarters three and four.

In 2018/19 the Training Strategy was updated to include a Charging Policy where some agencies have to pay according to their status and role. This has now only been in place for the first quarter of 2109/20 and has been successful. The proceeds will be used to further meet any learning needs of the children’s workforce across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The LSCB also facilitates a local Trainer’s Network which supports development of local safeguarding trainers through development sessions and networking.

In total **28** courses were delivered across **9** safeguarding themes. This equates to **1059** participants in training, which is multi-agency and therefore promotes networking and partnership working.

The safeguarding themes linked to the LSCB key priorities included:

- ✓ Disabled Children
- ✓ Neglect
- ✓ Children’s Mental Health
- ✓ Trilogy of Risk/Multiple Risk Factors
- ✓ Child Sexual Abuse

In addition, the LSCB were able to support the dissemination of learning that is delivered across LLR to a multi-agency audience from United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA), Turning Point, and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

A cascade pack was developed and disseminated to support learning from the review that was published in May 2018 regarding a teenage suicide. This included a PowerPoint that could be used to inform staff of what had happened, and research and further reading that was available through partnership with Research in Practice.

The delivery of the Multi-Agency Training Programme demonstrates how we have contributed to an effective multi-agency safeguarding partnership. Without the co-operation and contributions from all partner agencies within the MATG it would not be possible to develop and deliver this programme.

With the change in the co-ordination and delivery of the programme, the evaluation process is in its infancy however from two large-scale events on “*Safeguarding Disabled Children: Focus on Assessment*”, it has been possible to gain some insight into the impact of the learning.

When asked to rate their knowledge, skills and confidence following the 2 events, a total of **139** participants:

- ✓ 88% rated their knowledge as a 4 or 5 (with 5 being high level and 1 being low level)
- ✓ 85% rated their skills as a 4 or 5 and,
- ✓ 82% rated their skills as a 4 or 5.

In addition, following the large-scale event on child sexual exploitation in answer to the question: ‘***The benefit of meeting colleagues/exchanging information in a local context was...***’ **96%** answered that the benefit was ***positive or extremely positive***.

In terms of completing the actions set out in the Work Plan this has been successful, and any outstanding actions have been carried forward. A Multi-Agency Training Programme has been delivered and although this was suspended during Quarter one, it is now beginning to grow and more opportunities for learning are being created. The change in website for advertising the programme was initially a barrier, however, there has been a lot of work and networking around ensuring that staff in the children’s workforce in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland all know to go to the LSCB websites.

It remains for the evaluation of the data from the training events to be interrogated to realise the benefits and impact of the Multi-Agency Training Programme to date. There is a plan to evaluate courses three months after delivery which will commence during 2019. Nevertheless, the courses are popular, and the uptake demonstrates a need for such training. Barriers that remain are systematic, as a new Learning Management System is being sourced to help to manage the training data.

LSCB Strategic Priority – 5

Governance and assurance

The LSCB is to continue to improve its governance, performance and quality assurance process and to be assured of the effectiveness of the LSCB.

Statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

The LSCB has continue to review and revise its governance structure and reporting lines throughout 2018/2019 and has streamlined its business processes through a revised Strategic Business Plan and the work plans of its sub groups which assist the board to meet its statutory objectives.

It has also streamlined its Strategic Board meetings, frequency and forward planner to ensure that at each Strategic Board meeting there is a thematic spotlight on a priority area of the LSCB's Strategic Plan. During 2018/19 these have included:

- Spotlight on Early Help and Front door
- Spotlight on Domestic Abuse and Criminal Justice
- Spotlight on CSE, Missing and Trafficked
- Spotlight on Disabled Children and Transition Planning
- Spotlight on Moving Forward the Wider Vulnerability of Young People

The LSCB have also challenged partners to consider and provide assurance of how they take forward the new requirements within Working Together 2018 around contextual safeguarding.

Standing quarterly reports also include:

- LSCB Chair's Update regarding developments in the national safeguarding agenda
- Highlight Report from the LSCB CBC Executive and LLR LSCB JEG
- Presentation of Agency Inspection outcomes and assurance
- LSCB Budget
- LSCB Strategic Business Plan
- LSCB Risk Register

The LSCB Strategic Board received a number of annual reports as highlighted within the previous sections that detail the effectiveness of the LSCB Strategic Priorities 1 to 4. Progress with ensuring effectiveness in these areas is included within the specific priority areas above. The LSCB also required that all partners provide updates on developments within their agencies and provide assurance on their inspection outcomes. Assurance was also requested form other strategic partnerships regarding their contribution to safeguarding effectiveness.

In terms of ensuring effective partnership contribution all of the LSCB Sub Group Chairs are drawn from a range of organisations across the wider partnership and all hold senior strategic roles in their organisation.

Wider Partnership work

The LSCB works closely with Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children's Board (LRSCB) on several areas of work to support effective working across the two areas. The LSCB and LRLSCB have established a Joint Executive Group that oversees joint areas of business for the two Boards. It specifically receives reports from the LLR Multi-Agency Training Group, LLR Procedures and Development Group and the LLR Voluntary and Community Sector.

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Reference Group continues to cascade information to the wider VCS. Findings and learning from the Leicester and Rutland Safeguarding Assurance in the Voluntary Sector Report drives specific areas of work. The VCS Reference Group has developed a Communications Strategy for the sector, which reflects comments and views from the members of the Board. The group also promotes best practice, such as embedding the completion of LSCB Safeguarding Competency Logs.

The group continues to promote learning within the sector and has cascaded information and resources in relation to:

- ✓ The Role of the LADO
- ✓ The Voice of the Child/The Child's Lived Experience
- ✓ Trilogy of Risk
- ✓ Early Help Outcome Monitoring for the VCS
- ✓ LSCB training opportunities, including the relaunch of the Safeguarding Competency Framework

The LSCB VCS Reference Group has strengthened its membership and consequently has increased its knowledge base and specialisms with new representatives from Menphys and Loros.

The group discussed information from the CSE, Gangs, Criminal Exploitation and County Lines Partnership Event. The LSCB VCS Reference Group will support the cascading of information to the VCS, particularly in respect of identifying the signs of criminal exploitation and following appropriate safeguarding protocol.

The LSCB VCS Reference Group also highlighted recent concerns raised with SAB in regard to the lack of SARs for homeless adults who have died whilst sleeping rough or in homeless accommodation. This was discussed within the context of young people transitioning into adult services.

Leicester City Business Objective: Poverty, Austerity and Deprivation

The group has developed positive links with the DWP, particularly in relation to the five week wait for receipt of Universal Credit and sanctions, particularly in relation to how this impacts parenting capacity.

The LSCB VCS Reference Group have concerns about the number of children living with parents who are homeless and based in temporary accommodation (120,000 nationally).

It is of great concern that from data in the Leicestershire and Rutland VCS Assurance Report that **54%** of VCS agencies have no knowledge of Working Together 2015, particularly so now that the new statutory guidance has been issued. **48%** of VCS agencies also reported that they have no understanding of the Prevent agenda. This data has informed the first two priorities for awareness raising across the sector within the VCS Communication Strategy.

The group has expressed concerns that there is no longer a central infrastructure organisation acting as central hub for dissemination of safeguarding information to the sector which impacts on the ability to reach the wider VCS. The LSCB is exploring how to develop further links and is creating a specific VCS page on its website where safeguarding resources can be accessed in one place.

The subgroup remains concerned regarding the lack of resources to support the work of the group, particularly in relation to disseminating messages to an extremely diverse sector. It is important that there is strong communication with regard to the emerging new safeguarding arrangements across LLR.

As a result of these concerns the recommendations below have been submitted via a quarterly report to the LLR LSCB Joint Executive Group:

- Commissioners of new and existing VCS delivered contracts need to ensure that safeguarding awareness/practice is embedded across all commissioned services.
- To ensure that the VCS is engaged strategically with the new safeguarding governance arrangements.
- To identify and facilitate a central 'one stop shop' to enable the VCS to access up to date and accurate safeguarding messages, resources and learning.
- Partners within the JEG support and endorse the proposed work stream around children and young people living in temporary accommodation (including unsuitable Bed and Breakfast accommodation).
- A Communication Strategy for the LLR LSCB VCS Reference Group was also signed off by the LLR LSCB JEG in 2018

LLR LSCB and LSAB Adults and Children Safeguarding Conference

In February 2019 a one day safeguarding conference for safeguarding partners across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) was hosted by the four safeguarding boards for adults and children across LLR. The safeguarding partnerships welcomed local and national speakers to the event, including:

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences – Research:** Professor Karen Hughes, Bangor University and Public Health Wales
- **Recognition of Coercive and Controlling Behaviour:** Cheryl Henry Leech – Presentation and Case Study
- **Mental Capacity Act legislation:** Steven Richards, Edge Training and Consultancy
- **Case study safeguarding transitions:** Steven Richards, Edge Training and Consultancy

Over 140 delegates from across the safeguarding partnership attended, including representation from all three local authorities (adult social care, children social care, housing, community safety), Leicestershire Police, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Prisons, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, East Midlands Ambulance Service, University Hospitals Leicester, all three Clinical Commissioning Groups, Leicestershire Partnership Trust, and more. Initial feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive, and a more detailed evaluation of the day is currently underway.



Trilogy of Risk

In January 2019 there was also a review across the four LLR Adults and Safeguarding Boards to reflect on the impact of the Trilogy of Risk awareness raising resources developed by an LLR Task and Finish Group launched in July 2018. The suite of awareness raising resources can be accessed here:

<http://www.lcitylscb.org/information-for-practitioners/safeguarding-topics/trilogy-of-risk/>



Enhancing Everyday Business through governance and assurance

Under LSCB Regulation 5 (2006) a function of the LSCB in pursuing its objectives under section 14, Children Act is:

1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:

- the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
- training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
- recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
- safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
- cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) LSCB Procedures and Development Group oversee the development of multi-agency safeguarding procedures and ensure that procedures are up-to-date and compliant with *Working Together 2015/2018*. The procedures are available through the Leicester and Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Boards' website and 'hosted' by Tri.x, accessible at: <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/>

The Procedures and Development Group meets at least four times a year, and additionally, where required and coordinates the revision and development of new procedures to ensure that they reflect national and local changes as necessary. The review of procedures or the need to produce new ones is identified through legislative/statutory changes, national and local policy and operational changes and/or from partner agency or practitioner suggestions, learning from Serious Case Reviews, Learning Reviews and audits, and suggestions from Tri.x on policy reviews/improvement.

Across the year, task and finish groups (consisting of representatives from relevant partner agencies across LLR) were established to review key procedures and/ or developing new ones. Once reviewed, these were consulted upon prior to being signed off by the group or the Chair of the group.

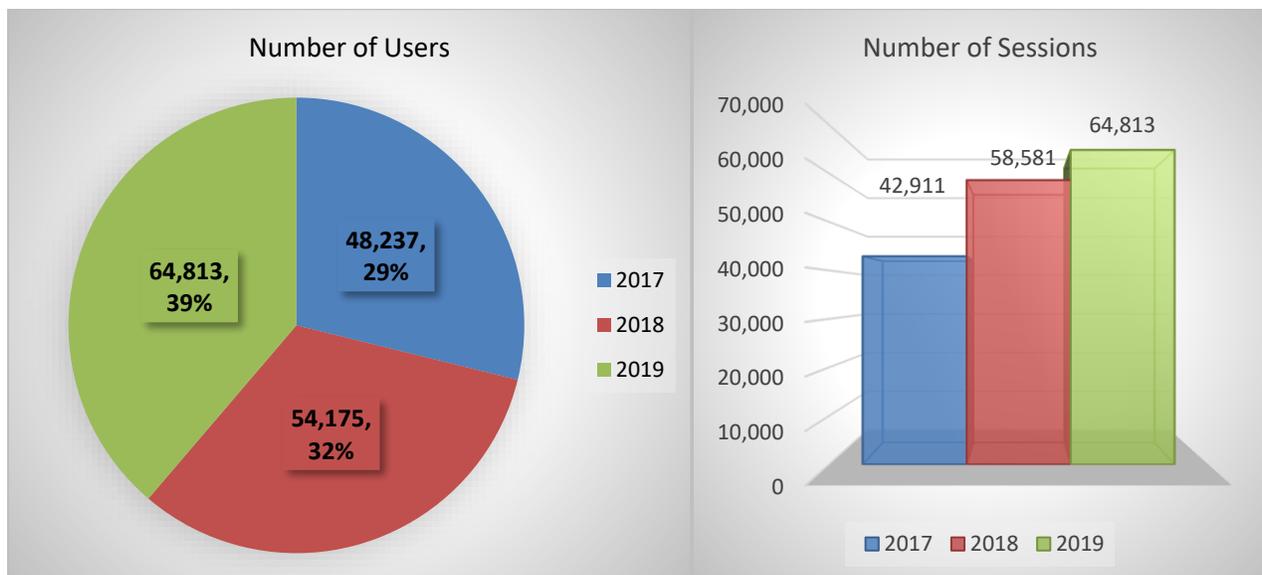
Following multiagency reviews, two planned LSCB Policies and Procedures updates had taken place in September 2018 and April 2019. These have been in line with the pre-agreed service level agreement with the provider. It is worth noting that additional updates to key policies have been undertaken outside these timeframes.

As described in Priority 1, the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) was reviewed and launched on 8th April 2019 and the form is available through the [LSCB](#) website and the [LA website](#).

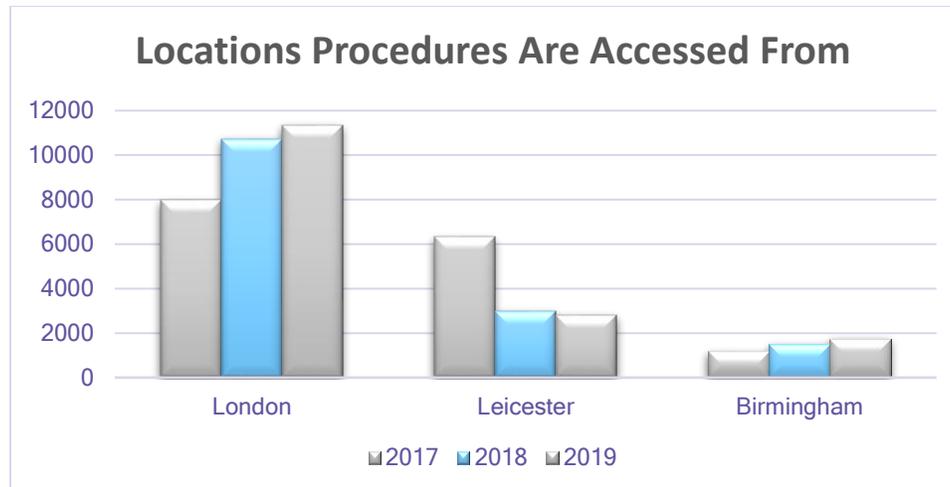
Additionally, the following key procedures were reviewed (with minor or major updates) and/or produced from September 2018 to March 2019. This included procedures identified as requiring revision through Serious Case Reviews, audit and other learning reviews. The amendments to the procedures can be found here: <https://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/amendments.html>. Practitioners can also sign up to [receive updates](#) when any change is made to the procedures.

Information on procedures and encouraging use by practitioners is promoted through LSCB sub-groups, learning and training events, Trainers Network, LSCB wider network, LSCB Newsletter, LSCB multi-agency audits and briefings. The audit briefings are available on the LSCB website at <http://www.lcitylscb.org/information-for-practitioners/lscb-multi-agency-audits/>

Access to the LLR LSCB multi-agency safeguarding procedures has increased as evidenced by Google Analytical data, which shows that there has been an increase in 2018-2019 in the users and sessions compared to 2017-2018 and 2016-2017, as illustrated below. There was an increase of **12%** in users, and an increase of **10%** in sessions.



The procedures are being accessed by areas outside Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The table below shows that the majority of the access has been from London, followed by Leicester and then Birmingham.



Looking forward during 2019/2020 the sub group will focus on:

- Planning for the review of procedures and transfer of procedures to the new platform designed by Tri.x is underway. The intention is for the new Multiagency procedures platform to be available in September 2019.
- Review of the current functions of the LLR LSCB Procedures and Development Group to ensure full alignment with the new Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangement's vision and operational model

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Stronger systems have been established for scrutiny, performance management and quality assurance. There is now improved alignment between the Board's strategic activity and the priorities and concerns of young people and frontline practitioners. Partner agencies report a more confident, optimistic and outcome-oriented partnership. Good use is being made of joint arrangements across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) to improve the effectiveness of Board functions and to respond to key safeguarding risks.

There is good confidence in the ability of the LSCB, through its processes, to have an accurate understanding of the strengths and areas for development in safeguarding in Leicester, and to be able to take early action with partners to tackle weaknesses in performance in any of the partner agencies.

There is well-established joint working across LLR, including the LLR LSCB Joint Executive, which will provide a good basis for developing any changes to local safeguarding arrangements following the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and publication of Working Together 2018.

There is clear evidence in this Annual Report that the progress made during the last year to ensure the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children has been far reaching. The LSCB has from the strong foundations laid in the previous year met its full range of its statutory responsibilities including those for assurance of Early Help, Front Door and Child Sexual Exploitation.

2019/2020 Business Plan

The high-level Business Plan 2018/2020 was agreed by the Strategic Board in April 2018 order to support the LSCB's transition into the new safeguarding arrangements. The LSCB therefore agreed to keep its current five priorities to improve outcomes through the partnership and to take the LSCB into the new arrangements in September 2019.

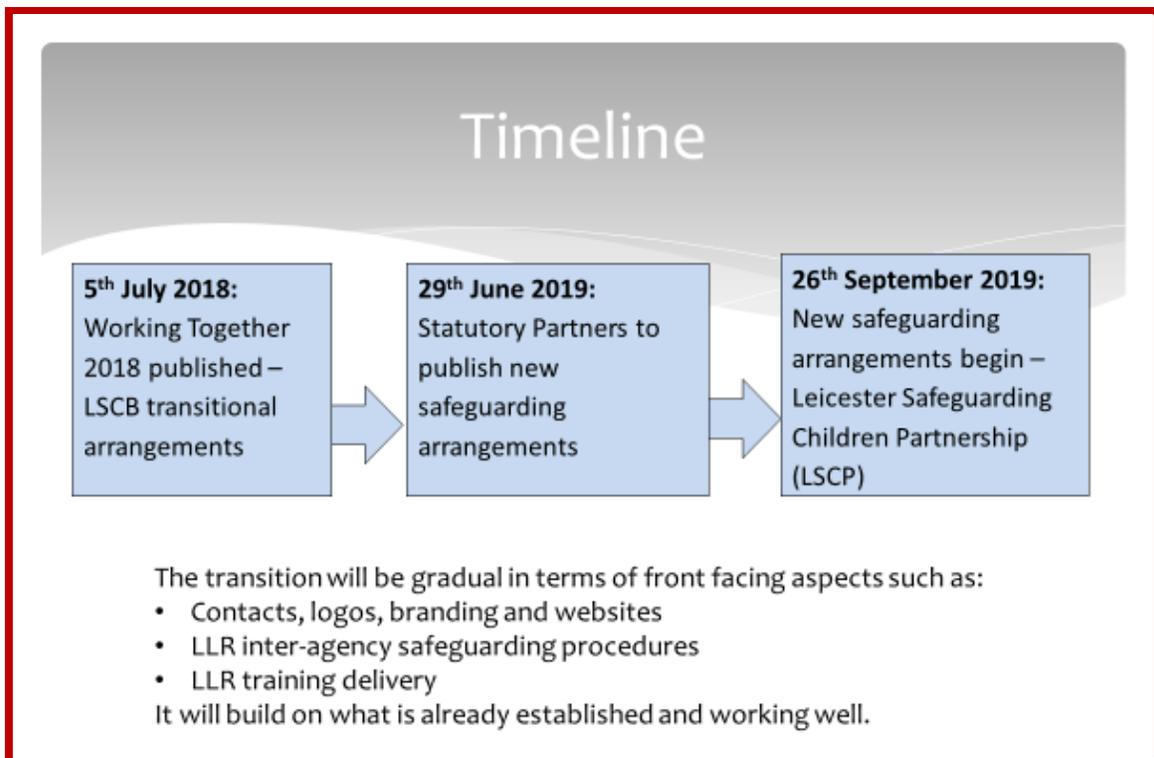
- **Objective 1:** Ensure children and young people in dangerous circumstances have faster, easier access to safeguarding support
- **Objective 2:** Ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding prevention and early help support to children and young people living in vulnerable families
- **Objective 3:** Ensure that the child's lived experience through multi-agency safeguarding systems is effective including Children Looked After
- **Objective 4:** LSCB is to be assured that the culture and continuous system of single and multi-agency learning, and Improvement improves outcomes
- **Objective 5:** Ensure the effectiveness of the Board and partners through its governance, performance and quality assurance processes.

The process for the Sub Group chairs to report on their work plans will remain through the Core Business and Chairs Executive and will demonstrate how the Chairs' have met their responsibility for delivering agreed activity against them and the impact of this work.

Part of this work will be ensuring that the Terms of Reference and responsibilities of the Sub Group are smoothly transitioned into the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements. The narrative and data in the report demonstrates that there is an improved culture of challenge, accountability, and joint working across the partnership and at all levels.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

While progress in both governance and effectiveness has been significant, there is still much to do while the LSCB retains its statutory functions and obligations and to ensure it has strong oversight of the move to the new safeguarding arrangements which must be published by 29th June 2019 and in place by 29th September 2019.



Member (names in brackets were members for part of the year)	Organisation/Post	Statutory Member	Co-opted Member	Participant/ Adviser
Adele Tilley	Lay Member	✓		
Adrian Spanswick	Consultant/Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children and Adults, Leicester CCG	✓		
Alun Elias-Jones, Dr	Designated Doctor, Consultant Paediatrician, CCG NHS		✓	
Anne Scott (<i>Victoria Peach</i>)	Deputy Chief Nurse, Leicestershire Partnership Trust	✓		
Beverley Cxyz	LSCB Manager			✓
Bob Bearn	Head of Service (HoS), DLNR Community Rehabilitation Company	✓		
Carole Ribbins (<i>Sharon Hotson</i>)	Deputy Chief Nurse, University Hospitals Leicestershire NHS Trust	✓		
Caroline Tote	Divisional Director of Children's Social Care & Early Help, Leicester City Council	✓		
Catherine Stretton	City Primary Heads Representative	✓		
Chris West	Director of Nursing and Quality, Leicester CCG	✓		
Claire Mayne	Area Service Manager, Cafcass	✓		
Jackie Difolco	Head of Service, Early Help and Prevention, Leicester City Council	✓		
Jane Brown	Secondary School Representative			
Jenny Myers	Independent Chair of the LSCB	✓		
Liz Dunn	LLR LSCB Training Project Development Officer			✓
Nikki Thompson	Barnardo's Locality Children's Services Manager		✓	
Matt Ditcher (<i>Simon Cure</i>)	Head of Serious Crime, Leicestershire Police	✓		
Michael Hopkinson	Senior Operational Support Manager, National Probation Service, DNLR	✓		
Nikki Thompson	Barnardo's Locality Children's Services Manager		✓	
Pratima Patel	LSCB Policy Officer			✓
Pretty Patel	Head of Law, Social Care and Safeguarding, Leicester City Council			✓
Ruth Lake	Director of Adult Social Care and Safeguarding, Leicester City Council		✓	
Ruth Tennant	Director of Public Health, Leicester City Council		✓	
Sarah Russell, Cllr	Lead Member, Leicester City Council			✓
Shabir Ismail	Deputy Principal, Leicester College, Further Education Representation	✓		
(<i>Sima Chauhan</i>)	Lay Member	✓		
Steven Forbes	Strategic Director Social Care and Education, Leicester City Council	✓		
Teo Bot	Head of Service, Children's Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Leicester CC	✓		

Appendix 2 - The LSCB Staffing and Financial Arrangements

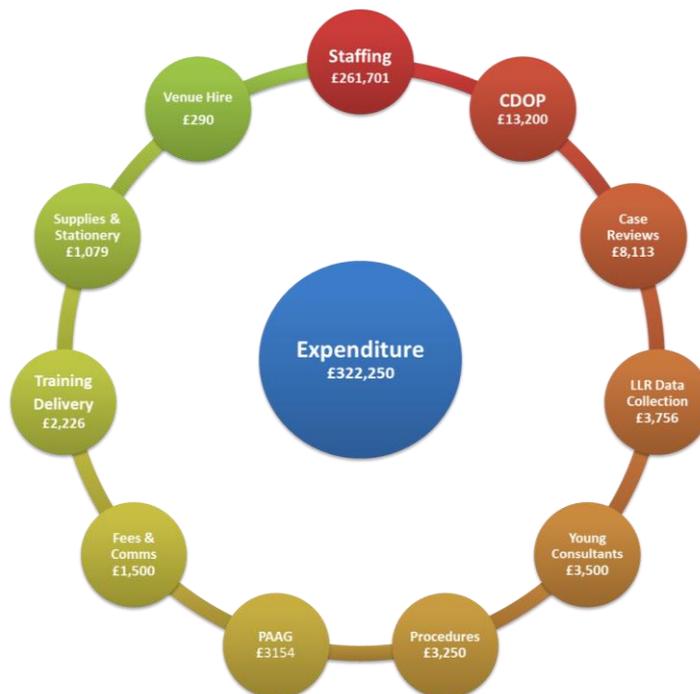
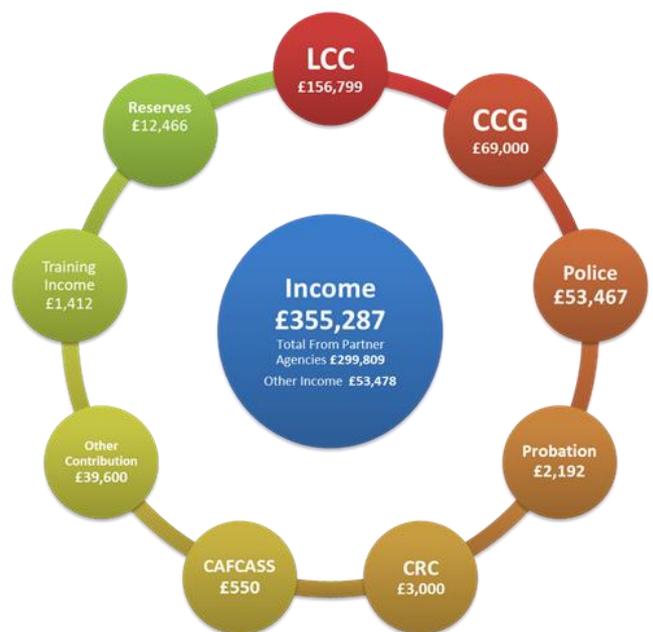
Having the right finances and resources is key for the partnerships success to meet its statutory obligations and have an impact on the delivery of Leicester’s children’s safeguarding arrangements.

The LSCB annual budget needs to pay for its administrative and business support functions as well as the cost of training and development on a multi-agency basis and to enable it to carry out its agreed business plan objectives. This includes the cost of any Serious Case Reviews and other learning drawn from audit and other review processes in 2018/19 a fully profiled and balanced budget was achieved.

The LSCB base line budget in 2018/2019 was £322,790 and income exceeded this. The chart to the right illustrates how the LSCB income was arrived at from partner contributions and other sources.

As can be seen, partner agencies have remained committed to supporting the LSCB arrangements and the funding partners maintained their individual contribution at the same base line level as in 2017/18.

The chart below illustrates the expenditure in 2018/19 against each of the agreed spending strands. This includes all elements of expenditure on staffing, case reviews, staffing and other improvement work.



In house costs were further reduced and managed by LSCB partners providing a variety of resources including administration support for subgroup meetings, free venues for training events and staff time to deliver training and contribute to assurance activity.

There was also a range of measures taken within the Business Office to ensure that costs were reduced through reducing printing, meeting costs and harnessing technologies.

Therefore, due to these efficiency measures and carefully monitoring of the LSCB activities the budget was sufficient to meet the LSCB’s financial obligations in 2018/19 and to place funds into reserves in order to support the transition to the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Appendix 3: Section 11 - Partnership Assurance Spotlight

Leicester Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) received an assurance template from each agency regarding its contribution to the effectiveness of the partnership and how it had met their section 11 self-evaluation actions during 2018-2019. Each agency was asked to respond to the following questions:

- Thinking about the primary purpose of the Leicester Safeguarding Children Board and its priorities, how have you contributed to an effective multi-agency safeguarding partnership over the last 12 months (up to 31st March 2019)? What assurance can you provide of its effectiveness?
- Using your Section 11 self-evaluation response and action plan please consider: *IMPACT - How well did we do it? - Is anyone better off?*
- Using your Section 11 self-evaluation response and action plan please consider: *For Areas for Development or Assurance Action to be taken forward – What do we need to focus our activity on to ensure any areas for development, action or solutions to remaining barriers are met?*

As well as the many specific examples of partnership working already highlighted in the LSCB Annual Report the following has been provided to highlight agencies contribution to the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Leicester:

Cafcass

Cafcass (the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. Cafcass represents children in family court cases, ensuring that children's voices are heard, and decisions are taken in their best interests.

The demand on the family justice system and on Cafcass services remained very high throughout the year, with rises in local caseloads varying across the country. Overall Cafcass has seen a rise in private law applications (involving arrangements for children following parental separation) and a small decrease in public law applications (involving the local authority), Cafcass is actively contributing to the Care Crisis Review, a sector-wide initiative that aims to stem the increase in care cases and promote safe and beneficial outcomes for children. We are also undertaking innovative projects that seek to improve practice, promote good outcomes for children and make better use of limited resources. An example is the three assessment pathways that we have been developing – domestic abuse; high-conflict; and parental alienation.

What have we done well?:

Cafcass' strategic priorities in 2017/18 were to: continue to improve our performance and the quality of our work; contribute to family justice reform and innovation; use our influence to promote knowledge and best practice; bring the uniqueness of each child (including diversity considerations) to the court's attention; be efficient and effective in light of high demand and financial constraints.

What more do we want to do?

The inspection identified some areas for Cafcass to improve relating mostly to the quality of recording and to explaining to court consistently when issues of diversity are not relevant to the application. We will be working on these in the year ahead and will continue to try to improve our services, and to contribute to family justice reform.

In October 2018 Cafcass developed a new assessment framework to support our practitioners in assessing the harmful impact of a range of complex case factors on the children we work with in private law cases.

Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group

In October 2018 the CCG submitted to NHS England a Safeguarding Assessment Tool (SAT) outlining the arrangement and providing assurance of the CCG arrangements it has in place to meet its statutory responsibilities.

What have we done well?:

As well as the actions identified in the safeguarding partner highlight box. The CCG identified the following actions that were incorporated into the work plan of the Hosted Safeguarding Team that is reported to the LLR CCG Safeguarding Group:

- A refreshed CCG MCA Policy
- Dissemination of GP Adult Safeguarding Quality Markers to GP Practices across LLR

The CCG is supporting funding LSCB training materials to support commissioned services to evidence training for listening to children.

Leicester City Council – Adult Social Care

LCC ASC staff do not work primarily with children but do support work with specific young people and with families. All ASC staff commit to safeguarding children and young people as part of their role and this is reflected in their competency framework.

Further specific contributions include:

The Trilogy of Risk is highly relevant to families and the recent ToR material has been disseminated to operational staff in ASC. The training materials have been shared within all service areas via team meetings and the PSW has sought assurance that all areas have completed this work. The adult safeguarding training will also include reference to identification of Trilogy of Risk Factors.

Adult Social Care have contributed to the LSAB Strategic Priority **Improving safeguarding transitions for young people (including those who may have experienced Child Sexual Exploitation CSE)** and an element of LRSAB Priority: SAB1 **Prevention of Safeguarding Need**, specifically **Effective transition from children's services, such as Looked After Children, Children on Child Protection Plans, and those affected by CSE, may support prevention of adult safeguarding need**, by providing representation from the Transitions Team Leader and PSW in adults to be members of a joint task and finish group to focus on this work. The aim of this group is to develop local guidance for practitioners where victims of child exploitation (i.e. CSE, gangs, county lines, cuckooing, domestic abuse, extremism, modern slavery and trafficking) are transitioning between child and adult safeguarding.

The PSW in adults has also worked closely with the Children's PSW on supporting the launch of the Transitions Strategy and delivery plan. They will also be jointly working on the training offer for Transitions to staff within Social Care.

What have we done well:

- **Core Training** – with the appointment of a Learning and Development Manager in ASC a programme of inhouse Safeguarding Adults Core Training has been developed and is being delivered from April 2019. The training module includes reference to the Safeguarding Children's Core Competencies and identification of Trilogy of Risk factors. This has been a seen a significant improvement on the ASC core training offer.
- **Prevent** – ASC now has designated PREVENT Champions in each division who have been trained to answer questions or signpost as required this information is available to all staff via Interface. A corporate PREVENT e-learning package has been rolled out. This is mandatory training for all staff, and management undertake regular checks to ensure staff have completed it. All new staff are expected to complete the e-learning package as part of their induction. The MAPP has recently been updated there is a revised section on Radicalisation which includes guidance on PREVENT, this can be accessed by all staff in ASC.
- **Transitions** – A joint Health, Social Care and Education Transitions Strategy has now been developed this includes a delivery plan which staff within ASC have been allocated specific actions

Leicester City Council - Children's Social Care and Early Help

In June 2018, adults social care and children's services combined to form a new Social Care and Education Department, under the operational leadership of the Strategic Director Steven Forbes. Lead Member portfolios for Children's and Young Peoples and Adult Social Care remained unchanged. The Strategic Director role for the new department holds responsibility for both the statutory Director of Children's Services (DCS) and the statutory Director of Adult Social Services (DASS).

As per government's guidance, Leicester City Council requested the Local Government Association to undertake the Test of Assurance. Two LGA advisors were appointed to undertake the Test of Assurance. They were Edwina Grant OBE (Senior Children's Improvement Adviser) and Sandie Keene, CBE (Consultant on Adult Services). Both are experienced leaders within children's and adults social care. The LGA review team provided a feedback session on the last day where they described a positive outcome. They were clear that the Test of Assurance was met. Both Advisors commented positively on the morale of staff that they had met across the department and of a positive, delivery focused culture.

What have we done well?:

Leicester City's Children's Services has continued its focused work throughout 2018/19 to further improve its service delivery leading to improving outcomes for City's children and young people.

Change in culture

Over the past year, Children Social Care and Education division has worked hard to develop our practice and culture to pursue aspirations for children, families and practice supported by the right learning, support and development (implementation of Signs of Safety Framework). This, amongst other developments, has positively impacted upon our recruitment and retention of social workers with high levels of permanent staff across the organisation. External reviewers, including LGA, Ofsted, Peer Local Authorities comment on how positive our workforce is about working in Leicester, how they feel supported by managers and value the range of learning, training and development available.

- Children and Young people are being offered different ways to engage in their meetings. Their views, wishes and feelings are captured in their reviews and increasing numbers of children and young people influence their care plans. Since January 2019, the number of children referred for an advocate has progressively increased. The feedback from children and young people in relation to the input of their Advocate is highly positive:

“People at the meeting knew what I wanted”

“I found it easier to write down my feelings and have my advocate say it for me at the meeting”

- Decrease in statutory complaints received by Children’s Services
- Leicester City’s recent focused visit in January 2019 was about our arrangements for children in need and those subject to a child protection plan, including children receiving help and support from the disabled children’s service. Their findings are very positive, which was a testament to everyone’s hard work.
- The external independent review undertaken in November 2018 found the division’s Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework to be developed and embedded, providing well informed overview of practice and service delivery to children and families.

What more do we want to do?

Develop the joint, multiagency approach via strategic and operational to address:

- Leicestershire Partnership NHS trust CQC inspection in 2018 judged child and adolescent mental health wards and community health services for children, young people and families as requiring improvement
- Expanding the CSE response to a Child Criminal Exploitation response across the City, LLR and the partnership
- Continuing to promote and encourage an increased numbers of external lead practitioners for Early help Assessments
- To continue to ensure a consistent approach to threshold application across the partnership
- Closer working through strategic and operational groups to address partner inspection findings

Focused actions taken via the implementation of Signs of Safety (SoS), training and development programmes (single and multiagency) to continue to improve the consistency of our quality of practice for children.

Leicester City Council – Youth Offending Service

There were no actions within the section 11 audit for Youth Offending Service and the priorities for the Leicester Annual Youth Justice Plan 2019-20 which will be monitored through the Young Offenders Management Board are as follows:

- To embed and monitor the new YOS model of service delivery post reconfiguration.
- To further improve the quality of assessments and effectiveness of YOS interventions to reduce re-offending.
- To ensure that young people who are known to YOS as children in need or in need of protection including from child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation are identified, safeguarded and their cases escalated where appropriate. The YOS to continue to be a core panel member for the newly designed exploitation meetings and to take the lead of on the development of a robust referral pathway for young people recognised as being exploited.
- To develop a prevention offer in partnership to prevent offending and further reduce reoffending by children and young people.

- To develop a volunteer, offer for young people receiving Community Resolutions.
- To continue to reduce the number of Children Looked After who enter the criminal justice system by developing a local protocol and to further reduce the number of young people subject to remands and custody.
- To monitor the impact of the Acute Childhood trauma work within the service and support its further use within criminal exploitation initiatives as well as group work programmes.
- To continue to support the partnership knife crime delivery group as it develops over the coming year as well as its close links to criminal exploitation developments.
- To embed the new national standards within the service and complete a full self-assessment later in the year.

What more do we want to do?

The key performance indicators remain top priority for the service; preventing youth offending, reducing re-offending and the use of custody for young people as well as suite of local performance indicators and a monthly dashboard of indicators for the Children's Performance Board. The impact of the YOS performance and its contribution to wider safeguarding and public protection responsibilities are monitored and reported through the local Children's Trust Board, Safeguarding Children's Board and MAPPA Strategic Board.

Leicestershire Partnership (NHS) Trust

During the year, LPT have made significant changes within its safeguarding systems and structures. Both the Children's Safeguarding and Adult Safeguarding Teams which formerly were 2 separate teams, merged to provide one safeguarding service across a whole family model.

What have we done well?:

Further successes have also included changes to the incident reporting forms which now better identify safeguarding risks and events and include the opportunity for analysis of trends in the reports to provide proactive responses to support frontline LPT services.

- MSP and VOC have been incorporated as standard questions and responses for incidents to ensure that the person-centred approaches are maintained and the wishes and feeling of the individuals are captured and responded to.
- For serious incident (SI) investigations, safeguarding is now routinely considered as a part of every investigation through a standard term of reference. For SI's that clearly are safeguarding events, the safeguarding team are included in the investigation process at an earlier stage and write specific terms of reference, provide safeguarding consultations and support to the investigator, and analysis and comment prior to the report sign off processes.
- The safeguarding team has continued to contribute to all multi-agency reviews across LLR (both adults and children's).
- LPT has a structured meeting framework which enables safeguarding assurance and compliance to be scrutinised at different levels within the organisation from directorate to board level. The organisation also provides quarterly key performances indicators to the LSCB which allows external scrutiny of LPT safeguarding activity.
- LPT has a safeguarding audit schedule and has contributed to the four LSCB multi-agency audits conducted during 2018-19 – CSE, Familial Sexual Abuse, Missing Children and Domestic Abuse. Lessons learnt from these audits are disseminated to staff via a number of routes – safeguarding briefings, presentations, discussion at team and safeguarding meetings.

- LPT practitioners actively promote **multi**-agency working by contributing to strategy discussions which enables the sharing of health information to inform the decision-making process. However, there are occasions when LPT practitioners are unable to contribute to strategy discussions due to the late notification of a strategy discussion.

With regard to children in specific circumstances we have:

- **Domestic Abuse:** LPT have consistently contributed to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). During 2018-19 the MARACs have increased in frequency to daily which enables information and risks to be shared across agencies quicker. LPT have uploaded the DASH RIC to the electronic health records and the Trust intranet. LPT has contributed to the LSCB multi-agency domestic abuse audit and disseminated internal and multi-agency lessons learnt across the organisation.
- **Child Sexual Abuse (CSE):** LPT hosts the CSE Specialist Nurse who is based within the CSE hub which promotes and enables the sharing of health information across partner agencies. LPT has contributed to the LSCB multi-agency CSE and familial sexual abuse audits. The CSE risk assessment tool is available to practitioners within children's electronic health records.
- **Early Help and Front Door:** LPT has contributed to the development of the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) and the MARF is available to staff within children's electronic health records and the Trust intranet.
- A Healthy Together practitioner is co-located in the Early Help service which promotes two-way information sharing and enhanced decision making. LPT has contributed to the ongoing review and updating of the LSCB Access to Services procedure.
- **Multiple Vulnerability and Complex Cases:** LPT have co-led the reviewing and updating of the LSCB Safeguarding Disabled Children procedure and supported the development and delivery of the Children with Disabilities training events.
- **Unborn and Vulnerable Infants:** LPT has actively contributed to the review and updating of the LSCB Management of Marks of Concern in Pre-Mobile Babies and Non-Independently Mobile Children procedure.

What more do we want to do?

- A recent Care quality Commission inspection identified LPT needed to increase the number of internal audits conducted.
- There is a need to further embed the Whole Family approach across LPT to promote liaison between LPT children and adult practitioners involved with a family.
- Evidencing the Voice of the Child requires further development and improvement.

Leicestershire Police

The Force Lead for Child Safeguarding has recently taken responsibility for **all** child exploitation and is leading on the formulation of a strategic Delivery Plan to inform the Force response to criminal exploitation. As part of this process the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Team have been re-aligned from the Complex Investigation Team to the Child Exploitation Team at the Safeguarding Hub, which again will ensure a holistic and effective response to all forms of exploitation involving children or vulnerable adults.

As highlighted in the Annual Report submission HMICFRS recognised Leicestershire Police as being 'good' at protecting vulnerable people stating that 'It has a strong commitment to helping those in most need'

There is effective inter-agency working to safeguard & promote the welfare of children

The Multi-agency Partnership Performance Meeting (chaired alternately by Police and Children's Social Care) has provided an effective forum for partners to share issues and concerns relating to child safeguarding processes and procedures.

It was highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of children to being taken directly to A & E for sexual medicals, instead of being taken to the children's specialist referral centre. The apparent knowledge gap within agencies was addressed through the Partnership Performance Meeting group and the issue was quickly resolved with children being appropriately seen and medically examined in a more appropriate and child-focused environment.

Strategy Discussions are also dip-sampled within the Partnership Performance Meetings in order to identify and learn from the Strategy Discussions that are conducted and can be seen as good practice and those that have not been conducted so effectively and where there is learning identified.

What more do we want to do?

Service development takes into account the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children & families

The Force is developing an overall Vulnerability Strategy and a Children's Strategy to ensure the voice of the child is incorporated into every strand of policing.

Leicestershire Police has identified there is still work to do in relation to the detention of young people, although there is some progress in this area. This relates to children and young people that need secure or other accommodation and the provision of both secure and alternative accommodation. The solution to this issue requires a multi-agency response and has been highlighted in previous Inspections by HMICFRS.

National Probation Service – DNLR

Given the nature of the National Probation Service's (NPS) work with adult offenders, it is highly unlikely that NPS staff will come in to direct contact with a child or children as part of their work. However, the NPS plays a key role in identifying safeguarding issues and developing risk management plans.

- NPS continues to engage positively with the LSCB and with partnership agencies under the MAPPA. This is undertaken at both operational and strategic levels. NPS have contributed to case audits when required, responded swiftly to serious incident information requests and data trawls, and assisted where required in initiating contact with adult offenders involved in Serious Case Reviews.
- All NPS staff have completed the Child Protection and Safeguarding Children, and the Domestic Abuse e-learning modules. All front-line staff who supervise or have contact with offenders have completed the two-day Safeguarding Children face to face training. All staff have been appropriately vetted. This includes the intake of new trainee Probation Officers who have joined the NPS over the past 12 months.
- Front line NPS staff continue to manage high risk violent and sexual offenders, some of whom will pose a risk to children. Staff make referrals, with NPS management support and oversight, where safeguarding concerns arise. Input has been provided to staff to develop their understanding and utilising of the "One Front Door" approach to address the needs of all children of service users under NPS' supervision.

What have we done well?:

Identifying the effectiveness of the NPS in child safeguarding is difficult given we do not directly undertake work with children. From a review of the Serious Further Offences (SFO) data for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, there was a reduction in the number of Serious Further Offences committed by offenders supervised by the NPS in Leicestershire, from 7 in 2017-2018 to 4 in 2018-2019. One of these offences was committed against a child, for which an SFO Review is awaited. Local Reoffending data does not separate the data by offence or victim type, to be able to draw more evidence of positive impact for children outside of serious further offence data.

*What more do we want to do?***Establish a clearer link with Early Help**

Activity will focus on:

- Arrange briefings for all NPS operational staff (one briefing completed, others were postponed)

Identify any patterns in professional disagreement / conflict in opinion

Activity will focus on:

- Continue to monitor locally via SPOs any instances that escalation process is invoked
- Review 6 monthly
- Explore establishing practice sharing sessions with Senior Probation Officers and Team Managers (initial contact made exploring concept)

Establish a more robust system for safeguarding checks at point of Court appearance

Activity will focus on:

- Consultation with Courts Team SPOs
- Liaison with Service Managers for City and County
- Continued involvement in any scoping for Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Increase the number of NPS staff accessing local safeguarding training to supplement and enhance the NPS in-house training

Activity will focus on:

- Continuing to screen and offer local LSCB / partner-agency training to NPS staff
- Identify key additional training to prioritise attendance
- Where viable, release additional staff for relevant training

University Hospitals of Leicester

University Hospitals of Leicester is one of the largest NHS Trusts in the country and is the main provider of Emergency and Acute services for the residents of Leicester and Leicestershire.

What have we done well?:

We are fully committed to safeguarding the people we provide services for during the past year we have introduced the National Child Protection Information System into our Emergency and Maternity Departments, which help us identify children who are looked after or subject to a child protection plan.

- We have trained over 8900 staff in Prevent, enable staff to identify people who may be subject to radicalisation and put initiatives in place to protect them
- Following the creation of a new single point of access for children requiring urgent care services. We have seen a significant increase in the number of safeguarding enquiries
- In December 2018 we concluded a governance review of our safeguarding committee structure and function to broaden its remit to have oversight of people with learning disability and dementia with a commitment to continually improve our services

We have continued to contribute to the work of the Safeguarding Boards to ensure that the voice for children and families who use the services of the Trust is taken into account when planning safeguarding board work

The Trust participated and presented its findings to a confirm and challenge section 11 audit meeting. In summary this confirmed that the Trust had

- Clear reporting structure from Trust Board to Ward to provide internal safeguarding assurance
- Provided data and assurance to the
- LSCBs, CQC, NHS Improvement and CCG
- Regulated by the Care Quality Commission and there were no breaches of regulation

What more do we want to do?

The Section 11 audit identified some areas of challenge as listed below

- Meeting expectation of different agencies as the Trust is required to report on its safeguarding performance to a number of different agencies
- Impact of revisions to Working Together, and how this will impact upon the Trust following the reforms
- Increasing and complexity of safeguarding referrals
- Different working arrangements between social care
- Impact of changes to CSE and Domestic abuse arrangements

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