

LSCPb 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2020

LEICESTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Leicester
Safeguarding
Children Partnership Board

WORKING TOGETHER
TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

Leicester

Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

Annual Report 2019/2020

Report prepared and published pursuant to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

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Report Date: June 2020

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FOREWORD

In their response to the Wood review, the Department for Education noted that ‘this is the beginning of a time of considerable change’. They were right in more ways than one. Not only have we experienced the transition from a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to a Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP), we also saw at the start of 2020 the outbreak of Covid-19 and the resulting global pandemic. These were, and continue to be, unprecedented times making it more vital than ever for local agencies who are at the forefront of safeguarding our children, to work together.

Under Working Together 2018, the purpose of this report is to bring transparency for children, families, and all practitioners about the activity undertaken by the safeguarding children partnership. A report must be published at least once in every twelve-month period that sets out what the partnership has done as a result of its arrangements, and how effective they have been in practice. The period covered in this report is September 2019 when the arrangements were implemented, to June 2020 – making it Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board’s inaugural annual report.

In Leicester, the challenges faced by Covid-19 presented an opportunity for the new partnership arrangements to embed quickly and effectively. Having been implemented in September 2019, they allowed partners the flexibility to adapt and respond to the changing safeguarding landscape. It is clear to me that underpinning this work is the positive relationships that developed during the partnership’s time as an LSCB.

I welcome seeing the partnership focusing on the impact of their work for children and families in Leicester. They have done this by working with partners across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) footprint when appropriate to do so, and where this is likely to have the greatest impact. In addition to the joint subgroups identified in the published arrangements, a good example of cross-partnership working is the safeguarding campaign referred to in the main body of this report.

I took on the role of Independent Advisor on a temporary basis in December 2019. My tenure has lasted longer than expected due to the recruitment for a joint Independent Advisor with Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership, being temporarily put on hold at the initial outbreak of the pandemic. I am fully committed to work with and drive the partnership in order to achieve the very best outcomes for the children and young people of Leicester. I am confident that as the partnership continues its development in what remains an ever-changing and challenging context, it will continue to keep the impact of its work on the children and families of Leicester at the forefront of its collective thoughts.

Linda Clegg, Temporary Independent Advisor

1. THE PARTNERSHIP

Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board completed its transition from Leicester Safeguarding Children Board in September 2019, in line with Working Together 2018: Transitional Guidance. The shared and equal duty of the three safeguarding partners – Police, Clinical Commissioning Group, and Local Authority – is to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Leicester. This includes agreeing on ways to co-ordinate safeguarding services, acting as a strategic leadership group to engage and support others, and implementing learning from local and national serious child safeguarding incidents.

Our partnership’s arrangements were published in June 2019 and outline our vision “*for children and young people in Leicester to be safe, well and achieve their full potential*”. Valued contributions from its members over a number of years, led Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board to maintain the membership of the former Leicester Safeguarding Children Board:

LEICESTER SCP MEMBERSHIP		
Criminal Justice	National Probation Service, Leicestershire	
	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company	
	Leicestershire Police	
Education	Primary Schools	
	Secondary Schools	
	Further Education Colleges	
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	Children’s Social Care and Education	   
	Adult Social Care	
	Housing	
	Public Health	
	Children and Young People's Justice Service	
PVI Sector	Lead Members	 
	Voluntary Community Sector	

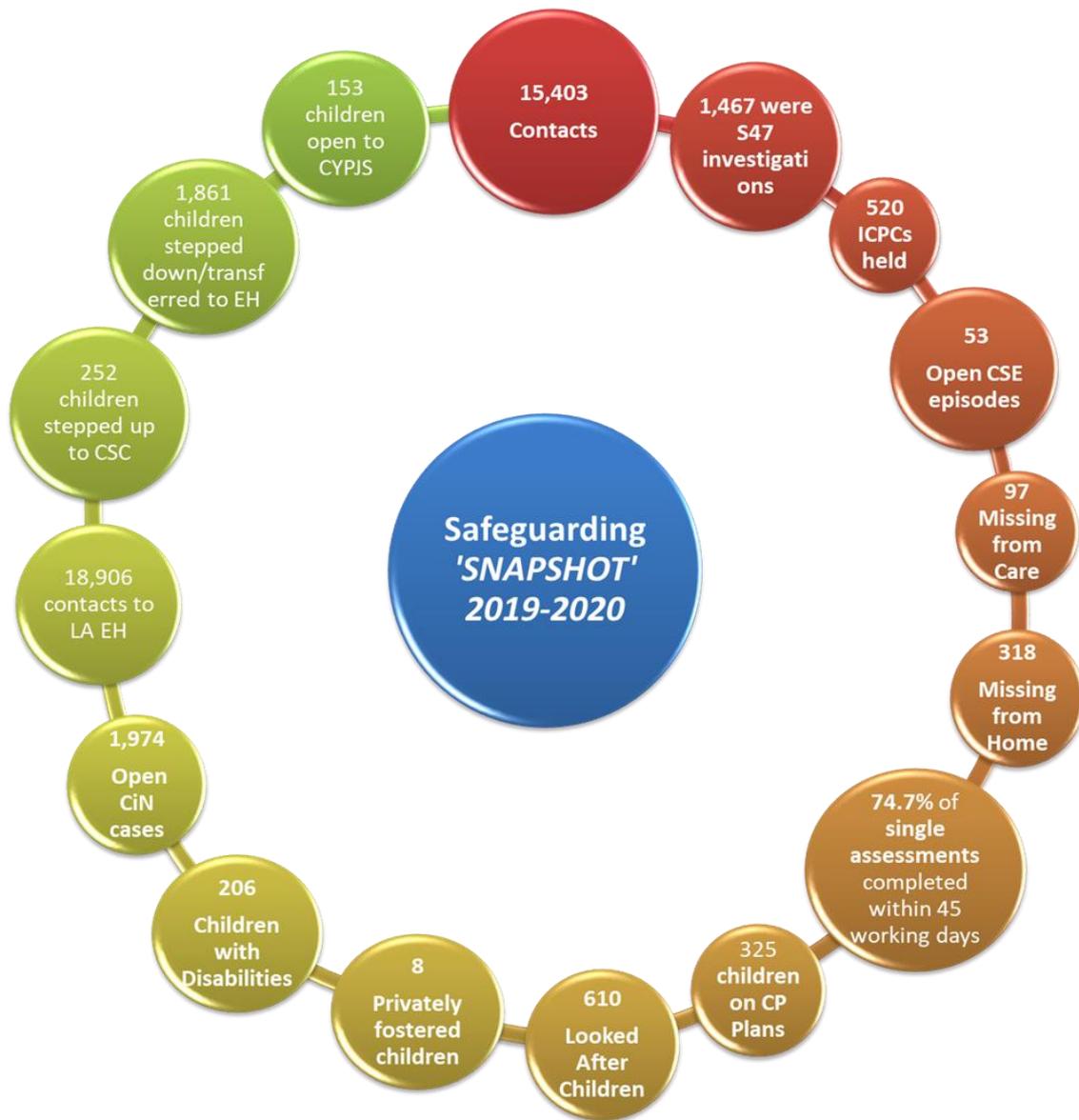
In line with statutory guidance, updates to our published arrangements are to be referenced in this report. Since the publication of our arrangements, in June 2019, there has been an additional subgroup created, with a focus on multi-agency audits and assurance. A new Quality Assurance Framework has also been developed and approved by the partnership. A copy of the current governance chart (which is a joint governance chart with Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership) can be found in the appendix.

2. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN LEICESTER – 2019/20 DATA

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 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. The following provides an overview of safeguarding children data in Leicester during 2019/20:

- Contacts to Duty and Assessment Service (DAS) –15,403 contacts to social care were recorded (up 9.5% from 2018-19)
- Referrals and re-referrals – there were 2,704 recorded referrals, with 332 (12.3%) being re-referrals. Referrals rose by over 29% year-on-year. The number re-referrals remained stable, however there was a decrease in the percentage of re-referrals.
- Contacts to Early Help - 18,906 contacts to the local authority early help service were recorded for 5,121 families (up from 5% from 2018-19)
- Of these, 52% were supported through Advice Point (Advice, signposting and a brief intervention), 27% were supported through an Early Help Assessment and 21% were NFA (no further action)
- There were 252 children stepped up to social care in 2019-20. There were 1,861 children stepped down/transferred from children social care to early help with less than 1% stepping back up to social care after 12 months.
- Statutory social work assessments completed by CIN: 3,168 single assessments were completed (up 6.3%). 74.7% were completed within 45 working days, with an average time of 38 days.
- Open Child in Need (CiN) cases: 1,974 (up 0.6% from 2018-19).
- No. of child protection investigations: 1,467 as of 31 March 2020 (up 45%). 40% of cases in the measure went on to ICPC.
- Children on a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and LAC: 325 CPP (down 8%) and 610 CLA (down 7%) as of 31 March 2020.
- Number of children and young people identified as being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): 53 CSE as of 31 March 2020. Comparable numbers to 2018-19, although 206 episodes ended and 210 started within the year.
- Children with a Disability (CWD) cases: 206 children and young people recorded as having a disability (11% of open CIN cases) as of 31 March 2020. 50 social work cases were held by the Disabled Children's Service as of 31 March 2020.
- Private fostering numbers: Eight children as of 31 March 2020. This is stable as there were 5 children in private fostering arrangement at the end of the previous year and 6 the year before.

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- Incidents of children and young people going missing from care: 866 missing occasions for 97 Children Looked After - between 01 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. A small increase in both episodes and young people
 - Incidents of children and young people missing from home: 722 missing occasions for 318 children not in the care of the local authority – missing episode between 01 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. An increase in both episodes and young people.
 - Children and Young People's Justice Service (CYPJS): 153 children were open to the CYPJS. Of these: 12.7% were looked after, 15.6% had SEND support and 23.2% had an Education, Health and Care Plan. Of these 27 were children looked after, and 38.8% had SEND support or an Education Health and Care Plan.
 - Of the 153 children and young people open to CYPJS across 2019-20, 48.3% were first time entrants, 10.9% were cyp who had reoffended and 3.3% received a custodial sentence.
 - Over 90% of young people remained in suitable accommodation at the end of their order and 92% (statutory school age) 79% (post 16) in education, training and or employment.



Safeguarding 'snapshot' 2019/20

3. WHAT WE HAVE DONE AS A RESULT OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS

This report must set out what the safeguarding partners have done as a result of our local multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements. The subgroups of Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board undertake core business on half of the partnership; their work, since the partnership was established, is outlined here along with any identified impact for children and families:

3.1 Multi-Agency Policies & Procedures

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCPs) Policy and Procedures Group oversees the development of the LLR multi-agency safeguarding procedures and ensures that procedures are up-to-date and compliant with Working Together 2018, taking into account local and national learning from reviews and audits, as well as any legislative changes. Throughout the year, task and finish groups (consisting of representatives from relevant partner agencies across LLR) were established to review key procedures and develop new ones. Highlights include Fabricated Induced Illness (FII) revised procedure, which is a good example of partnership working, although it is recognised that there remains more to be done to embed this work.

Impact: During January and February 2020, a survey was conducted to evaluate the use of the updated LLR Multiagency Referral Form (MARF) and Threshold document. A total of 167 surveys were completed by front line practitioners and first line managers working across various agencies across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. More than half (59%) said that they had used the MARF. A large number (49) had submitted 1-5 MARFs and few (5) had submitted more than 15 MARFs. Feedback identified that referrers would like an improved experience in receiving confirmation of submitted referrals and being made aware of outcomes – this feedback has been received and required updates will be implemented by the policy and procedures group during 2020/21.

Impact: Access to the LLR multi-agency safeguarding procedures has been consistent in comparison to 2018/19. Google Analytical data shows that there has been a small increase in 2019/20 in the number of sessions, users and page views. There were 54,485 users, 66,051 sessions, and 95,359 page views from April 2019 to March 2020 in comparison to 54,175 users, 64,813 sessions, and 95,982-page views from April 2018 to March 2019. Our multi-agency safeguarding children policies and procedures (joint with Leicestershire and Rutland) provide practitioners with a shared language and allow for consistency of approach across the partnership.

3.2. Assurance & Audit

The LLR Assurance and Audit Group was set up to analyse Safeguarding Children Partnership performance data and oversee multi-agency assurance processes. It will oversee the annual Section 11 audits. At its meeting on 20 January 2020, the group carried out a multi-agency

assurance process regarding mental health and safeguarding children. This process considered a range of existing reports and the findings from these in order to derive an overarching view of multi-agency safeguarding and child mental health and areas for improvement or further assurance going forward. Reports included the LSCB Multi-agency audit carried out in 2019, learning from reviews, single agency audit findings and views from children and young people. The group identified 'Better engagement from and with CAMHS in safeguarding and Child in Need processes' as the main area to take forward to support effective safeguarding of children.

Impact: Mental health has been identified as a priority in LSCPb's 2020/21 business plan, with one task and finish group already set up focusing on improving elements of this work.

Additionally, Leicester's Early Help Model, which incorporates the Early Help Offer and the Troubled Families (TF) Programme was evaluated by Leicester's Early Help Strategic Partnership Board. The evaluation found that families with a diverse range of multiple and complex needs are being supported by early help delivery partners; there has been increased achievement of outcomes in key areas; families were positive about the changes made due to intervention giving an average of 8.1 out of 10. Satisfaction resulted in an average rating of 8.4 from a scale of 1-10, and ease of understanding the plan resulted in an average rating of 9.2 out of 10.

A performance review by the local authority's Transformation and Service Improvement Team of the TF programme found that there is evidence that the programme is having an impact to reduce the severity and acuteness of needs of families over time and by extension therefore having an impact on the number of social care cases that are being referred.

Impact: closer working with children's social care has prevented families from requiring longer term statutory intervention at a higher cost. There has been a year on year increase in cases being stepped down from children's social care (CSC) to the local authority's early help services for families who still require support but do not meet the children social care threshold. There is a more skilled and confident workforce, which include awareness of the TF Programme. In relation to the TF programme, evidence suggests that given the relatively high change of lead agency rates in the short-term following commencement of intervention, efficient multi-agency working is in effect with cases moved on in a timely fashion; that the families with the most acute / complex needs are being prioritised for inclusion in the TF programme.

In relation to Leicester Children and Young People's Justice Service Inspection, the youth offending service is inspected every three years by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The last inspection was in May 2016 resulted in an overall grading of Satisfactory. The most recent inspection in August 2019 resulted in an overall grading of GOOD demonstrating great progress with six recommendations. The inspection found that there were some areas of outstanding practice, which brought together representatives from local authority, police, probation service and NHS. Steps had been put in place to provide better support to children who have had traumatic experiences and who potentially have undiagnosed mental health conditions.

Two mental health specialists have been brought in to work with these children, and to train and assist other staff. There was good practice in the service's education, training and employment provision. Recommendations identified through the inspection have been embedded within the operational and partnership delivery plans with good progress made to date.

3.3 Learning & Development

In addition to the multi-agency safeguarding children training offer for 2019/2020 the LLR Multi-Agency Learning and Development group facilitated four large-scale events since the partnership was established in September 2019. In relation to the new arrangements, 'referral forms' between subgroups have been set up encourage other subgroups to refer in to learning and delivery to ensure the multi-agency training offer is current and focused on Safeguarding Children Partnership priorities.

Impact: The learning and development group is in the process of considering how impact can be measured. This will be an important way for partnerships to evidence that they are making a difference.

3.4 Responding to COVID-19

The safeguarding children partnership's 2020/21 priority setting day was postponed (subsequently held in June 2020) due to the onset of COVID-19 throughout January and February 2020, which culminated in school closures on 20 March 2020 and a national lockdown on 23 March 2020. Within four days of lockdown, the three safeguarding partners had reviewed their arrangements and written out to the partnership identifying which partnership board work would be prioritised in light of the pandemic. The status of the work of the partnership board was subsequently reviewed at regular intervals, with updates communicated out to LSCP members via e-mail.

"...In light of the unprecedented strain placed on LLR safeguarding partners at this time, we have considered how to ensure that the statutory duties of the LLR Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Partnerships continue to be met, whilst at the same time reducing pressure on partners. The LLR safeguarding boards and partnerships remain vital in providing strategic leadership to support and oversee effective safeguarding across the locality and we thank you for your continued efforts in these difficult times..." (extract from correspondence sent to LSCP members, from the safeguarding partners across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, on 27 March 2020)

At the same time, following a noticeable fall in safeguarding children contacts, safeguarding partners worked swiftly to agree and publish a joint statement confirming that despite lockdown, local safeguarding partnerships continued to respond robustly to all reports of child abuse, and that help remained available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (see Appendix B). Subsequently, the partnerships developed a comms campaign #OurDoorsOpen which promoted this message to local communities and practitioners alike via a [press release](#) and associated comms messages

across the partnership and local community (see Appendix C for examples of the associated assets, leaflets and posters). In order to effectively promote this message, LSCPB linked effectively with other strategic partnership work that taking place in the locality, including the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) comms cell.

Impact: Safeguarding children referrals increased following the implementation of the media campaign – this would have resulted in additional protection being provided to children experiencing abuse or neglect in Leicester. The partnership was contacted by Local Government Association, seeking to use the campaign as an example of good practice. Other partnership areas also made contact with a view to either adopt or adapt our campaign in their own areas.

Finally, led by the local Clinical Commissioning Group, safeguarding partners across the locality were swift to adapt to the impact of COVID-19 by setting up a regular (weekly with flexibility to change) meeting of safeguarding leads with a view to achieve a collective understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on safeguarding children at an operational level, to share information about the impact of COVID-19 on services, and to address any emerging issues.

Impact: The Safeguarding Sub Cell allowed timely and flexible sharing of information, issues, and solutions for safeguarding children across the partnership in response to COVID-19. It also fed into a number of different strategic bodies, avoiding duplication, which was particularly important at a time of crisis. The positive impact on children, young people, and their families is difficult to measure, but given the importance of effective information sharing and multi-agency working as recognised in many Serious Case Reviews over the years, it is likely to have been significant.

4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

This report must set out what the safeguarding partners have done in relation to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Since the partnership was established in September 2019, 3 Serious Incident notifications have been made to the National Panel, resulting in 3 Rapid Reviews, and a decision to undertake 2 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs). These LCSPRs continue to be in progress and will be reported on in next year's annual report. In the meantime, immediate learning identified in the rapid reviews, has been identified and acted upon, resulting in immediate improvements to multi-agency safeguarding children policies and systems.

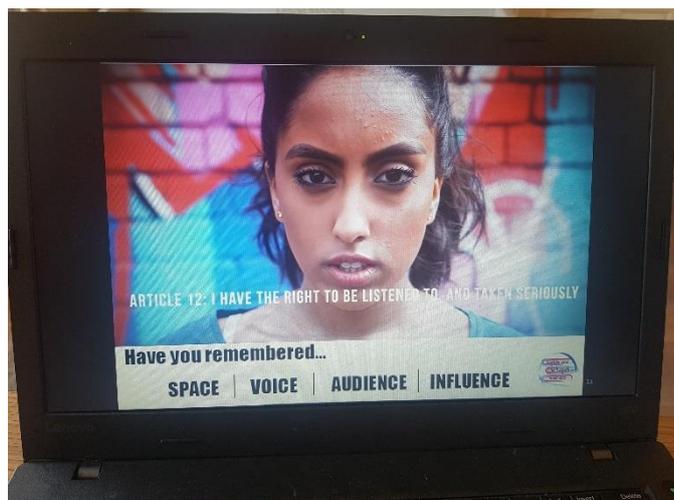
In line with statutory guidance, this report must also include a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (September 2019 to June 2020) to implement recommendations from any national child safeguarding practice reviews. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published one such review. 'It was hard to escape: Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation' was published on 4 March 2020.

Impact: The national review indicated that a whole system approach incorporating policy, prevention, disruption, protection and support across multiple agencies is likely to be the most

effective approach. Locally, strategic ownership of this work sits with the LLR Strategic Partnership Board which oversees the LLR Vulnerability Executive, which the Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Ops Group reports into. We have an LLR Exploitation Delivery Plan, led by the LLR CCE Co-ordinator, a plan which all safeguarding partners work on together. The delivery plan covers issues identified in the national review, influencing the operational work of the LLR CCE safeguarding hub and its dedicated multi-agency workers. The multi-agency child exploitation hub’s operating protocol was developed in May 2020 and is currently being finalised.

5. HOW FEEDBACK FROM CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INFORMED OUR WORK AND INFLUENCED SERVICE PROVISION

With the partnership being established September 2019 and the global pandemic reaching us in the UK in March 2020, the partnership is yet to fully capture how feedback from children and families informed our work and influenced service provision. Data on this, along with examples, will be captured as part of our new Quality Assurance Framework, to be embedded throughout 2020/21.



‘Was Not Heard’ – a film part-funded by the partnership in conjunction with NHS England and written/developed by local young people aged between seven and nineteen – was played at our LSCP B business priority setting day. It focuses on the importance of the voice of young people and it set the tone for the partnership to receive input from young people’s groups and forums across the city into our LSCP B priorities. The film focuses

on Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): the right to be listened to and taken seriously. The partnership is supporting a launch of the film in early July 2020 and it will be used in training, team meetings, and reflective practice across the safeguarding children partnership.

Impact: In addition to the ‘Was Not Heard’ film that was played at our LSCP B development day, local young people forums fed into the LSCP B development day and influenced our priorities for 2020/21.

6. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With the LSCP B’s original priority-setting day in March 2020 postponed due to Covid-19, the partnership met virtually in June 2020 to plan their priorities for 2020/21. Priorities will focus on meeting our statutory duties and maintaining business as usual in the context of Covid-19. A

limited number of additional priorities will focus on mental health, voice of the child / co-production, effective communications, and domestic abuse in families. Once published, a copy of the new business plan will be found on the [LSCPB website](#).

7. APPENDIX A: JOINT LSCP/ LRSCP GOVERNANCE CHART



Joint Governance Chart

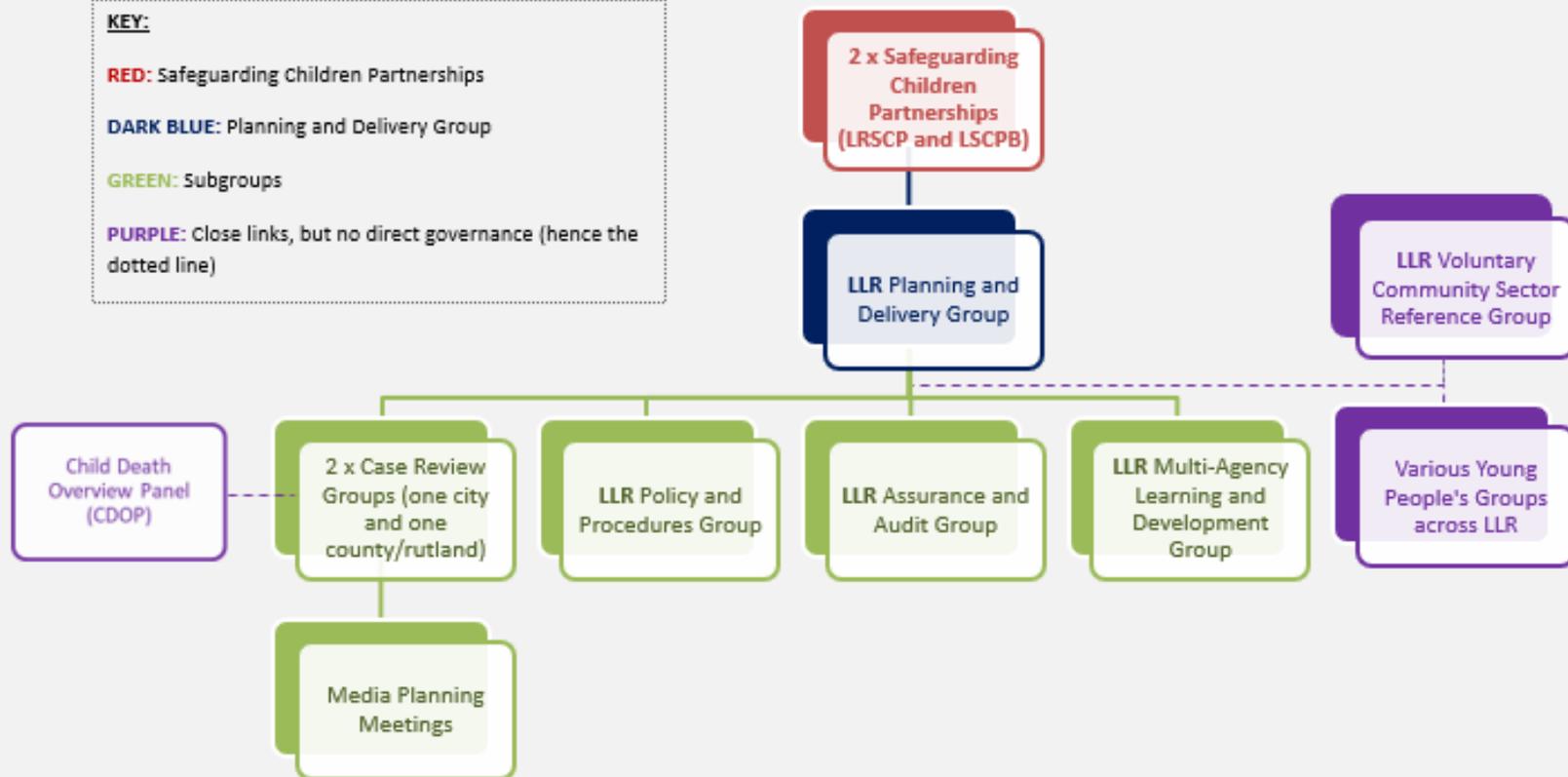
KEY:

RED: Safeguarding Children Partnerships

DARK BLUE: Planning and Delivery Group

GREEN: Subgroups

PURPLE: Close links, but no direct governance (hence the dotted line)



APPENDIX B: COVID-19 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERS' JOINT STATEMENT (MARCH 2020)



Safeguarding
Children Partnership
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

COVID-19 Safeguarding Children Update

Safeguarding Children Partnerships across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland continue to respond robustly to all reports of child abuse. If you have concerns about a child, help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Contact:

Your Local Authority

Leicester City Council: 0116 454 1004; www.leicester.gov.uk

Leicestershire County Council: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-abuse-of-a-child; 0116 305 0005
(telephone for urgent situations)

Rutland County Council: 01572 758407 (0116 305 0005 out of hours) www.rutland.gov.uk

Police

Non emergencies: report via website www.leics.police.uk or call 101

In emergencies, always dial 999

ChildLine 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

help@nspcc.org.uk

March 2020

APPENDIX C: COVID-19 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN #OURDOORISOPEN CAMPAIGN

**Their door is shut
Ours is open**

Knowing what signs of abuse to look out for will help to keep our children safe.

If you've noticed **ANY** of these, you need to tell us:

- aggressive or repeated shouting
- hearing hitting or things being broken
- children crying for long periods of time
- very young children left alone or outdoors by themselves
- children looking dirty or not changing their clothes
- children being withdrawn or anxious

Whether you're a relative, a neighbour or an adult passing by, if you see something that isn't right, we need to check things.

#OurDoorsOpen
<https://lrb.org.uk/childreport>

Safeguarding Children Partnership
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Our Door Is Open: Leaflet Front

Leicester City Council
0116 454 1004
www.leicester.gov.uk/health-and-social-care

Leicestershire County Council
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-abuse-of-a-child
0116 305 0005 (telephone for urgent situations)

Rutland County Council
01572 758 407
(0116 305 0005 out of hours)
enol: childrenreferrals@rutland.gov.uk

Leicestershire Police
Police
Non-emergencies report via website
www.leics.police.uk or call 101
In emergencies, always dial 999

ChildLine
0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk

#OurDoorsOpen
<https://lrb.org.uk/childreport>

Our Door Is Open: Leaflet Back

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#OurDoorsOpen
<https://lrb.org.uk/childreport>

Leicestershire County Council 0116 305 0005 | Rutland County Council 01572 758 407 (0116 305 0005 out of hours) | Leicester City Council 0116 454 1004

Our Door Is Open: Poster

**Their door is shut.
Ours is open.**

Tell us if something isn't right
#OurDoorsOpen

Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership
Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Their door is shut.
Ours is open.**

Tell us if something isn't right
#OurDoorsOpen

Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership
Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Their door is shut.
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Tell us if something isn't right
#OurDoorsOpen

Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Selection of Our Door Is Open: Social Media Assets