

WAS NOT HEARD

LSCPB 2020/21 YEARLY REPORT

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JUNE 2021

LEICESTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP BOARD



WAS NOT HEARD

ARTICLE 12: I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE LISTENED TO, AND TAKEN SERIOUSLY



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Leicester
Safeguarding
Children Partnership Board

WORKING TOGETHER
TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE



WAS NOT HEARD

ARTICLE 12: I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE LISTENED TO, AND TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Leicester

Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

Yearly Report 2020/2021

Report Author: Lindsey Bampton, Safeguarding Board Manager

Report Date: June 2021

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FOREWORD

We are pleased to present this report of the Leicester City Safeguarding Children Partnership Board that covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The early part of the year was dominated by the emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the changing circumstances of this heavily influenced the ongoing work of all partners, and the partnership as a whole through the year.

Despite the unprecedented challenges facing the many organisations that make up the partnership, overall, the partnership has been able to progress its work to review and improve the approach to safeguard children in Leicester. We have adapted our methods, training approaches and continued to communicate important messages to the community and to all who work with children and families across the area.

During this period, we have seen partnership working strengthened as working together becomes all the more important when facing uncertainty and challenges on many fronts. As we have had to adapt how we work the involvement of every member of our communities in helping to protect children and respond to abuse and neglect has become even more important.

Workers and managers in organisations throughout Leicester have worked hard in difficult circumstances to support the welfare and safety of children, and their wellbeing has been a key concern alongside those they serve.

Our thanks go to you all.

The Safeguarding Partners for Leicester

1. THE PARTNERSHIP

The shared and equal duty of Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's (LSCPB) 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 outline our vision "*for children and young people in Leicester to be safe, well and achieve their full potential*".

LEICESTER SCP MEMBERSHIP		
Criminal Justice and Blue Light Services	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company National Probation Service, Leicestershire	1 person
	Leicestershire fire and Rescue Service	1 person
	East Midlands Ambulance Service	1 person
	Leicestershire Police	1 person
Education	Primary Schools Secondary Schools Further Education Colleges	1 person 1 person 1 person
Family Justice	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	1 person
Health	Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust University Hospitals Leicester NHS Trust	1 person 1 person 1 person
Local Authority	Children's Social Care and Education Adult Social Care Housing Children and Young People's Justice Service	1 person 1 person 1 person 1 person
PVI Sector	Lead Members Voluntary Community Sector	1 person 1 person

In line with statutory guidance, updates to our published arrangements are to be referenced in this report. There have been no additional updates since the ones outlined in the 2019/20 yearly report. 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. PRIORITIES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Leicester's SCP identified (jointly with Leicestershire and Rutland's SCP) the following priorities and outcomes for 2020/21:

Priority 1: Statutory responsibilities

- The Partnership has carried out the statutory requirements of the Safeguarding Partners and assured itself they are meeting these.
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Partnership assurance work result in timely learning and changes in systems and practice to improve safeguarding/outcomes for children.
- The impact of COVID-19 on safeguarding and welfare of children is understood, emerging issues are identified, and partnership approaches to address this and mitigate future risk are in place.

Priority 2: Voice of the Child

- The priorities and work of the partnership has been influenced by the voice and experience of children who have received safeguarding support.
- Partners evidence that work with children to safeguard them is directed by their voice and lived experience and this is having a positive impact on their safety and wellbeing.
- The partnership is assured that messages and measures online safety are reaching children and young people and supporting them to be safe online.

Priority 3: Mental Health

- The emotional and mental health needs of children with learning disabilities and/or autism are understood in the context of safeguarding and support for this group of children is in place as required to reduce risk.
- Safeguarding and mental health support for children is joined up and partners work together and with young people to reduce risk of harm.

Priority 4: Communications

- People who work or live in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland report child abuse and neglect and concerns they are aware of.

Priority 5: Domestic Abuse

- The partnership is assured that there are appropriate support and interventions for children living with domestic abuse.

The work on these priorities was embedded within the assurance, training, procedure and review work of the partnership outlined further in this report. The main body of the report covers work linked to the safeguarding partners' statutory responsibilities. It was notable during the year that

in some way's partnership working became stronger, as partnership responses to the pandemic enhanced relationships and the need for good communication. More organisations were more regularly involved in partnership safeguarding meetings and approaches with our neighbouring SCP in Leicestershire and Rutland were strengthened.

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 LSCPB undertake core business on behalf of the partnership; their work during 2020/21, is outlined here along with any identified impact for children and families:

3.1 Meeting Priority 1: Statutory Responsibilities

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews: Our last yearly report noted that 3 local Serious Incident notifications had been made to the National Panel between September 2019 and June 2020, resulting in 3 Rapid Reviews, and decisions to undertake 2 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs). It was envisaged that the findings of these two LCSPRs would be reported on in this year's report. Whilst learning was identified and acted upon during 2019/20, resulting in immediate improvements to multi-agency safeguarding children policies and systems, the reviews themselves are yet to be finalised.

2019/20 LCSPR 1: The decision to undertake this review was made in May 2020 and endorsed by the National Panel in June 2020. After a lengthy period arranging contracts, work began with the independent reviewer in November 2020. The review is due for completion in July 2021.

2019/20 LCSPR 2: This review remains on hold pending the completion of parallel processes taking place. This decision was made to ensure that the partnership has the opportunity to undertake a wider, overarching review if it is required. Both the family and the National Panel have been notified.

Serious Incident Notifications: Between June 2020 and April 2021 (the period that this yearly report covers) one Serious Incident Notification was received – in July 2020 – and a decision not to initiate a LCSPR was endorsed by the National Panel. This means that no LCSPRs were commissioned during 2020/21.

Learning from Rapid Reviews: During 2020/21 the partnership developed an internal briefing paper focusing on learning from Rapid Reviews between 2019 and 2021 where local LCSPRs had not been initiated. The briefing paper encouraged the following positive practice across the partnership:

- Professional curiosity, with practitioners involved in child protection sharing available information and reflecting on parents' accounts through triangulation of information. Organisations enabling a culture of curiosity.
- Information checks being undertaken by probation for unborn babies, babies, and children known to them, by contacting children's services duty and advice team. For ease of reference, contact details for information checks have been added to our LSCPB website.

- Practitioners being aware of LLR SCPs Procedures including 1. Safeguarding Procedures on Pre-Birth which includes a section on ‘working with fathers’ and 2. Disguised Compliance
- A multi-disciplinary approach to protective Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) and safer-sleeping work with families with additional needs or situational risks (such as those fleeing domestic abuse). This means SUDI & safer-sleeping advice not being seen in isolation to other risks or as the sole remit of health professionals.

Serious Case Reviews: During the period of this report, three Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) have been published by what was the Leicester Safeguarding Children Board (LSCPB) which is no longer in existence. All three reviews were published on the NSPCC National Case Review Repository website, all published anonymously due to the children involved still being alive and two published anonymously at the specific request of the children and young people involved (in the third review, the child was too young to comment).

Impact: One significant piece of work undertaken by the partnership during 2020/21, as a result of one of the reviews carried out by the former LSCB, is the development of information-sharing to identify children missing in education. We have been working as a partnership to ensure that we are able to identify such children. Information sharing agreements have been put in place and data has begun to be mapped on an ‘ad hoc’ basis. A more systematic approach is being developed throughout 2021/22 which will ensure that children missing education and not accessing health care are known to the partnership and steps can be taken to safeguard when appropriate.

National Reviews: During the period covered in this report the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published one national safeguarding practice review. ‘Out of routine: A review of sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm’ was published in July 2020.

The report identifies that *‘Situational risks and out-of-routine circumstances act together to increase the risk of SUDI and may mean that families find it difficult or impossible to engage with standard safer sleep messages.’* (page 8). Leicester was one of the 12 fieldwork areas selected for this review. Within the published report, our local multi-agency Strategy to Support Healthy Pregnancy, Birth and Babies is referenced as an example of a strategy which brings together *‘action to reduce poverty and health inequalities with systematic arrangements for prevention and early intervention to support vulnerable families’* (p.25).

The report concludes with three recommendations, all of which national bodies (Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, Department for Education, Public Health England, Department of Health and Social Care) have been tasked with implementing. Locally, we have embedded the learning about SUDI, situational risks, and out-of-routine circumstances into our multi-agency safeguarding children training programme and will continue to do so.

Impact: As part of our [2021/22 Business Plan](#), our Multi-Agency Learning and Development Subgroup has been tasked with considering the impact of our work to date and to review SUDI awareness-raising and multi-agency training across the partnership as required. We will also be working on a comms campaign across the multi-agency partnership, raising awareness to support the safety of babies.

Understanding the Impact of COVID-19: As outlined in the LSCPB 2021/22 Yearly Report, the Safeguarding Sub Cell was set up to provide quick multi-agency operational responses to safeguarding children during COVID-19. The group met on a weekly basis and attendees were multi-agency safeguarding leads from across the two local safeguarding partnerships.

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 informed 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.

One example of the work of the sub-cell was work in response to an apparent increase in concealed or denied pregnancies. A deep-dive into midwifery records was carried out, followed by multi-agency communication including a piece in our Safeguarding Matters newsletter to raise public and professional awareness alongside an update to procedures. The local Hospital Trust's work on this also helped influence a national public campaign.

In addition, the group identified a concern that changes in services resulted in risks to new-born babies being unseen. The partnership followed up what was in place and gained assurance that GPs had been requested to ensure that social workers were informed about any vulnerable babies (on Child Protection Plans) who were not brought for a face to face 6-8 week baby check with their GP.

Multi-Agency Policies and 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.

Impact: Google Analytical data shows that there was 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. Unfortunately, Google Analytical data is no longer available for us to measure impact for 2020/21.

Impact: As mentioned above the concealed and denied pregnancy procedures were updated in response to a review in a neighbouring area and emerging concerns during the pandemic. In addition, procedures regarding Child Criminal Exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) were revised and our local Neglect Toolkit updated to include adolescent neglect, SUDI and pre-birth neglect.

Learning and Development: Apart from the ongoing offer to train multi-agency COVID-19 related volunteers, the training function of the LSCPB was suspended in the first wave of the pandemic, with Board Office staff reallocated to support the COVID-19 response. LSCPB training was back up and running by mid-summer 2020 with the training programme commencing in September 2020. The online offer increased cumulatively towards the end of 2020, with a robust programme in place for quarters three and four.

In response to COVID-19 the Multi-Agency Training and Delivery Subgroup (MALDG) diversified, delivering training in a more blended way, offering film clips, recorded webinars, live pdfs, and self-directed learning/reading alongside virtual delivery. This was done with the understanding that this will be the way forward, and that face to face delivery when it returns will be only part of the offer.

From September 2020 to March 2021 the programme delivered training to 988 people over 58 training events. This number of attendees is almost equivalent to the face to face training of the previous year, which totalled just over 1000. This shows the appetite for learning – albeit virtual learning and possibly the ability for some people to access more easily online. In addition, 640 people attended 3 larger events, 2 webinars and a conference which brings this total to 1,628 across 2020/21.

Along with a core safeguarding offer we have also linked with the local Violence Reduction Network (VRN) to support a programme of delivery on ‘The impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma on Children and Young People’. This has been a popular course particularly with youth services, those working with children in care and also adult services who might be working with adults in the prison system, with mental health needs or requiring support from services usually outside of adult social care.

Impact: Our evaluation analysis demonstrated an increase in participants’ knowledge, confidence and skills. Moreover, an impact evaluation sent out in Quarter 1 of the 2021/22 business year resulted in 80% of respondents confirming that they had used the training in their everyday work. A more detailed summary of impact and Evaluation Analysis can be found in the appendix, along with qualitative impact data.

Children Looked After and Care Leavers: The safeguarding partnership has ensured that the health, social care and education needs of children looked after and care leavers have continued to be prioritised throughout 2020/21. This has included work with strategic partners together with care experienced young people and their carers, to promote five priority Corporate Parenting themes for mental health and wellbeing: education, training and employment, transition to successful living, a place to live, and participation and engagement.

Early Help: Multi agency approaches to safeguarding are applied across Early Help and Prevention. Within Children's Centres and Family Support (CCFS), 2 key mechanisms for this are our Early Help Allocations Hub and our Multi Agency Support Panel. Early Help Allocations Hubs are in place to enable multiple agencies to discuss new cases referred for support to explore the best possible intervention for the family based on information shared by all key professionals, using current information and recent history. Multi Agency Support Panels are in place to explore cases that show little or no improvement, are high cost, or have shown a recent escalation of problems. A panel of core members as well as other relevant partners invited share information with the family present and consider the most effective next steps for and with the family.

More widely, partners are invited to regular Team Around the Family meetings for every case open as an Early Help Assessment to ensure that all professionals involved have knowledge of and input into the families plan and assessment. We have co-located buildings with Early Help, Midwifery, Health Visiting Teams and Early Years which provides invaluable opportunity for professional discussions and also work closely with local schools and Early years settings. Each Cluster holds regular Networks Working Together Hub meetings (formally Locality Partnership Boards) which consider available resource and funding, local updates, training opportunities and shared events. Early Help works very closely with Children's Social Care and more recently professional links with colleagues in SEND are developing significantly.

Impact: As a result of the above, children, young people and families receive a true 'team' around their family where professionals work together and with the family to ensure that support provided is timely, relevant and prioritised so that the family is not overwhelmed with all professionals and actions taking part at once. Our Signs of Safety approach keeps children, young people and families central in each of these processes and wherever possible, are involved in all decisions and next steps.

Statutory partners work together to support children and young people at the edge of care to become safe, keeping families together. The teams take cases from when legal advice is usually being sought to seek care proceedings. During 2020/21, the teams worked with 400 families and 633 children. Of all families starting in the year, 88% are still safely together. All families are tracked for 18 months and of all cases tracked for 18 months, 78% have remained safely at home.

Children and Young People's Justice Service (CYPJS) has safeguarding embedded in all its principles, national standards and case management responsibilities. The service works with over

200 young people each year on a variety of orders with the aim of preventing offending, risk of harm to themselves and others and protect the public. The service is regarded as a good service with outstanding features by HMIP and has some excellent outcomes in terms of reducing offending, reducing young people entering custody and good education, training and employment outcomes. The service is multi-agency providing an holistic approach to our children, young people and their families.

Priority 2: Voice of the Child

In line with our business plan priorities, local children and young people were involved in the panel to interview and recruit the LSCPB's new Independent Advisor. Their voice was listened to and had an impact on the recruiting decision.

Young people's priorities fed into the June 2020 priority setting day and influenced the priorities for 2020/21. For 2021/22 a Young People's takeover was arranged for a joint meeting of Leicester SCP and Leicestershire and Rutland SCP. In the city, the Lundy model participation strategy 'Template for planning participation activity involving young people' was completed in preparation for this event. We are currently seeking feedback from the Children and Young People involved about whether this is the most effective way for us to work with them. It is imperative that children and young people have



Space: Access to safe spaces to meet so they have equal opportunities to formulate and express views.

Voice: Supported to make their voice heard and express their views in a way that they decide best.

Audience: We must ensure that children and young people's voices will be listened to by the most appropriate audience.

Influence: We must ensure that children and young people are able to have influence and have their views acted upon.

One excellent example of this during 2020/21 is the ‘Was Not Heard’ film which, having been launched in July 2020 and in line with our business plan, the LSCPB supported and promoted throughout 2020/21. This film was commissioned jointly by LSCPB, LRSCP and NHS England following a Serious Case Review where a child’s voice was not heard.

Impact: Made by young people from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland with the help of our youth participation service, this film on children’s rights has:

- Reached global audiences via UNICEF
- Won a prestigious Children & Young People Now award
- Been recognised nationally through its use in Public Health England’s Psychological First Aid training which currently has 72,672 people enrolled

Feedback from PHE’s Psychological First Aid Training included “The video really help [sic] clarify the importance of active listening and including the young person in any discussions/ decisions/ plans”, “When you find new ways to hear, you hear new things” What a great sentence!”, and “Was Not Heard” WOW! What a moving video an [sic] says so much”. In February 2021 LLR Safeguarding Children Partnerships’ Multi-Agency Training Subgroup posted the film on their new YouTube channel and it has since received over 35,000 views.

Multi-Agency Audit and Assurance: The LLR Assurance and Audit Group was set up to analyse Safeguarding Children Partnership performance data and oversee multi-agency assurance processes.

The partnership has developed and implemented a Quality Assurance Framework shared with the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Performance

The partnership reviewed data regarding referrals to Children Social Care from different sources and partners involvement in multi-agency safeguarding.

To help understand impact of partnership working the partnership also reviewed data regarding ‘re-referrals’ (children referred back to social care following safeguarding intervention) and ‘repeat plans’ (children needing a follow up child protection plans after initial plans had ended).

As mentioned previously the partnership saw an initial reduction in referrals at the start of the year linked to the response to the pandemic, which was followed by an increase up to expected levels.

Of the contacts to the local authority during the year, 1,633 did not meet the thresholds for Children’s Social Care. The highest numbers were from other Local Authorities (541), followed equally by Police (214) and Local Authority services such as Adults Social Care (214), and then by Legal agencies such as Court/Probation/Immigration/Prison/CAFCASS (116), and Health Services such as primary health services (101).

This highlights the need to raise awareness of safeguarding and thresholds. During the year we started the review of the Thresholds to Access Services for Children and Families in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Children's Social Care document. The review is near completion and we are planning to promote and raise awareness to encourage use of the reviewed Thresholds document

Indicator	Q1 2020/21		Q2 2020/21		Q3 2020/21		Q4 2020/21	
LA2 - Proportion of contacts that do not meet thresholds for Social Care	335 out of 3,483	9.6%	325 out of 3,692	8.8%	335 out of 3,578	9.4%	638 out of 3,841	16.7%
LA4 - Re-referrals to Children's Social Care	197 out of 1,019	19.3%	275 out of 1,074	25.6%	133 out of 742	17.9%	89 out of 605	14.7%
LA5 - Repeat Child Protection Plans	36 out of 177	20.3%	44 out of 142	35.2%	35 out of 142	24.6%	46 out of 124	37.1%

The was a decrease in re-referrals to Children's Social Care from Q2 (25.6%) to Q4 (14.7%). However, the rate of re-referrals remains above the national average. At the beginning of Q3, there were some changes within the management structure at the 'front door' in Children Social Care. A number of workshops have been held with the staff and the mapping of cases is being used to explore/ discuss complex cases, and a QA spotlight activity focusing on the 'front door' is scheduled for Q4.

The number of repeat child protection plans increased from Q1 to Q2 and then at Q4. At Q1 it was at 20.3% (36 out of 177) compared to 37.1% (46 out of 124). Children Social Care completed a QA spotlight at the end of August looking at the repeat plans. The domestic violence and abuse in all case was coupled with mental health and all substance misuse risk factors. The findings of this activity indicate current evidence of good work undertaken with children and families to ensure plans are robust, child focused and prevent future harm. However, there was some learning in relation to the previous practice around the robustness of assessments at the point of closure and the full use of the Signs of Safety road map for safety planning which includes all the elements for a good sustainable plan.

There is confidence in the system in relation to the CP threshold as 94% of children presented at the Initial Child Protection Conferences in September made subject to Child Protection Plans.

The partnership is following up assurance regarding domestic abuse in its priority plans for 2021/22.

Self-assessment

During 2020/21 it oversaw the annual Section 11 audits, which included a question about responding to the voice of children who require safeguarding intervention. Five agencies considered that they were ‘fully effective’, whilst eight agencies considered that they were ‘mostly effective’ and two agencies considered themselves to be ‘partly effective’.

Impact: Leicester City Council’s Children Social Care stated that during the pandemic they considered that their young people have been very active and engaged. The Care Experienced Consultants a group of young people who are in care or who have recently left care have received national recognition for their ‘Quaranteens’ campaign, which offered support during the lockdown via social media. The ‘Quaranteens’ campaign was delivered in partnership with Leicester City Young People’s Council and saw young people create short videos with tips and advice for how to keep busy at home and stay positive during the lockdown. The campaign was voted Best Project 2020 by Catch 22, the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum a network of more than 100 local authorities which promotes the development of quality services for young people who are leaving care.

Leicestershire Partnership (NHS) Trust noted that as a result of Safeguarding Incident (SI) reports and other learning frameworks, there has been a greater push for debriefs of children and young people following them ‘witnessing’ an event or incident (with a focus on in-patient services). This has been followed up with an audit of incident report forms to benchmark and evidence that the ‘debrief’ session has occurred for the young person and the outcome of the debrief.

3.3 Priority 3: Mental Health

Probably the most difficult priority to progress, the partnership carried out work to develop aligned pathways between CAMHS and safeguarding. A task and finish group focused on children with mental health needs / self-harm and suicide, developing guidance to sit alongside an established procedure. The guidance was created following input from CAMHS and Leicestershire NHS Partnership Trust and was due for sign off at the end of the 2020/21 business year.

The LLR Safeguarding Children Partnerships also wished to see clear pathways in meeting emotional and mental health needs in the context of safeguarding children. It was initially identified that this would sit within the remit of a newly created group alongside the partnerships. However, no assurance was obtained from said group and this work will continue into 2021/22.

3.4 Priority 4: Communications

Our LSCPB along with LRSCP developed and promoted the local #OurDoorIsOpen campaign throughout 2020/21. The campaign began in April 2021, with posters, leaflets, and social media

assets disseminated from May 2020 onwards. The positive impact of this campaign was discussed in our 2019/20 annual report (which covered the period until June 2020).



In December 2020 the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland SCPs led on comms for schools at the request of the Local Resilience Forum. A locally produced poster for primary schools was developed (see appendix) along with links to the Home Office's 'Something's Not Right' supporter's pack for the campaign to be promoted in secondary schools.

3.5 Priority 5: Domestic Abuse

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's S11 Audit sought assurance from partners about what their organisation has in place to effectively head and respond to children affected by domestic abuse and their safeguarding and welfare needs. Six agencies considered that they were 'fully effective', seven agencies considered that they were 'mostly effective' and two agencies considered that they were 'partly effective'.

Impact: Operation Encompass has remained in place during the period with schools continuing being formally notified of any reported incident of domestic violence at an address at which children are present or normally resident within the previous 24 hours.

The daily MARAC model implemented across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has remained in place with meetings being held daily for victims of Domestic Abuse/Sexual Violence who are considered to be at medium or High risk. Repeat victims are referred through to Project 360 (P36) as well as UAVA for support. If, when working with a victim, P360 recognise that the DA is having an impact on a child they will refer them to the family support workers within UAVA, (other referrals to Children's Social Care may be considered) if a child is displaying abusive behaviour themselves, P360 will also consider a referral to The Jenkins Centre.

The CCG has submitted a successful bid to NHSE&I for 2020/21 non-recurrent funds to enable Barnardo's to undertake work in partnership with local agencies (Local Authority, Police). The Barnardo's project will explore voice, experiences and emotional needs of children and young people when living with domestic abuse. Report findings will be available during 2021/22.

4. LEARNING FROM EXCELLENCE EVENT

The LSCPB was invited by the Government to attend a Learning from Excellence event with nearly 200 professionals held on 17 March 2021. Leicester was chosen due to us being one of 30 local safeguarding partnerships that saw the highest levels of hospital admissions for sharps injury between April to September 2020. The event gave us the opportunity to consider our own and other partnerships' response to protect those who are vulnerable, especially as lockdown restrictions eased.

Impact: Local good practice highlighted in the Home Office's practice summary (not yet published, but circulated to the national safeguarding partnerships) included:

"Leicester uses an interactive dashboard created by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Violence Reduction Network in partnership with Leicestershire Police which allows them to monitor data on a daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. Through this, they have been monitoring how serious violence behaves during the pandemic. Work is underway to provide a more granular analysis, including a more detailed cohort analysis using police, school attendance and exclusions and other multiagency data." (page 5)

"Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Violence Reduction Network have developed "Are you Listening?", a film designed to equip trusted adults with the tools to recognise the issue of CCE and take action. Since its launch, the film has reached 3.5 million people through social media channels and more than 1,400 people have signed up to attend a training workshop delivered by Leicestershire Police to train parents/carers and anyone who works with young people to recognise the signs of CCE." (page 7)

"Leicester's Routes to Safety project focusses on developing safe routes/spaces to and around schools, delivering activities to children and young people in peer groups with the aim of reducing youth violence." (page 14)

"Leicester is working with Leicestershire and Rutland on a multiagency project aimed at identifying and supporting children affected by parental imprisonment. The model is being developed to ensure support pathways are in place with the aim of securing positive outcomes for children, including reducing inter-generational offending." (page 18)

5. INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

Report of the Independent Advisor, Kay Whyte-Bell

Kay was appointed late September 2020 as the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland (LLR) Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCPs) Independent Adviser following the completion of the transitional arrangements from Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) to SCPs and the departure of the previous Chair, Linda Clegg. Leicester SCP would like to thank Linda for her leadership and support as Chair in overseeing the transitional arrangements.

Kay is a social worker by profession and brings a range of experience through senior leadership and management roles in local and regional Government, as well as within voluntary and charitable organisations. Additionally, Kay has worked in Children's Social Care Inspection, previously chaired an LSCB and authored Serious Case Reviews as well as currently Lead Consultant with several organisations on behalf of Elia, the umbrella organisation for Signs of Safety, the practice approach utilised across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Children's Services.

What is the Role of Independent Adviser/Independent Scrutineer?

'The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multiagency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases' and, "The independent scrutineer should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported." Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Being mindful of each's individual and unique footprint, Leicester SCP and Leicestershire & Rutland SCP decided to appoint one Independent Adviser given that much of the planning, commissioning and delivery of child safeguarding is jointly undertaken across the three local areas.

The Independent Advisor therefore has reviewed the work of the Leicester SCP together with this annual report and provided the following assessment and recommendations.

Summary

Given the operational challenges that were as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, overall, the Leicester SCP 2020-21 Annual Report offers a good range of evidence, together with analyses, providing assurance of the local safeguarding children arrangements. The report, furthermore, identifies specific areas for development through new or enhanced priorities.

What are the strengths?

- The three statutory partner agencies, Clinical Commissioning Group, Police and Local Authorities, Priorities have been agreed in an open and transparent process, involving the wider partnership
- The voice of the child is evident in establishing the priorities, for example on Mental Health
- Leicester SCP ‘Quaranteens’ campaign delivered in partnership with Leicester City Young People’s Council
- Leicester City’s use of dashboard (LLR contribution to the Home Office Report) and Learning from Excellence Event
- Together with Leicestershire & Rutland SCP, the nationally acclaimed “*Was Not Heard*” short film advocating the right of children to be heard and the duty of those working with them to act has been viewed over 36,000 times
- There is evidence of LLRSCPs developing working together with the Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) on cross cutting themes and shared issues
- The Covid 19 pandemic impact planning has been helped by regular and effective meetings between the partners’ Safeguarding Sub-Cell as well as leading to deep dive audit activity
- Successful Covid 19 communications strategy initiated by Leicester & Rutland SCP and adopted by Leicester SCP to the wider public, “Our Door is Open”
- Rapid Reviews are timely, appropriately attended and outcome-focused with key learning identified as well as decisions on next steps clearly evidenced

What could be more evident?

- A robust multi-agency data set linked to the overarching priorities, that can be tracked, scrutinised and evidenced of impact on service delivery and improvements
- Scrutiny and assurance activity in which the engagement of children and young people show impact on service commission and/or delivery
- Families’ views in relation to engagement and intervention
- Influence of learning from Rapid Reviews and Serious Case Reviews
- Impact of partnership with voluntary agencies
- Transitional safeguarding*
- Safeguarding children from diverse communities*

*Identified as priorities for 2021-22

Developments in Independent Scrutiny

The Independent Adviser, together with the LLR Statutory Partners, has begun work on further developing the scrutiny function, based on growing practice across English SCP’s, the National Safeguarding Children Panel Reports (2018, 2020), and the Wood Review of Multi Agency

Safeguarding Arrangements (May 2021). The following developments are either already happening or scheduled to begin from September 2021:

- Agree with Statutory Partners a Scrutiny Programme against agreed priorities
- Transition chairing arrangements from September 2021 – LLRSCPs will now be chaired on a rotational basis by Statutory Partners
- Established regular ‘keep in touch’ scrutiny and assurance meetings between Independent Adviser and Statutory partners
- Quarterly meetings between the Independent Adviser and the Independent Chair of the local SABs
- Agreed joint priority with local SABs - ‘Think Family’ approach
- Joint meetings between the SABs and SCPs
- Engagement with Children and Young People – for example joint chairing of LLR SCPs Priority Setting meeting; involvement in SCP Scrutiny programme
- Independent scrutiny of SCP subgroups
- Providing Independent advice to the Case Review Group and Rapid Review Meetings
- Explore further opportunities for external review such as with peer SCP’s or through the Local Government Association

6. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

A copy of our Business Plan for 2021/22 can be found on our [LSCPB website](#). The following priorities have been developed jointly with Leicestershire and Rutland SCP:

Priority 1. Safeguarding Babies - Improving how we work together with families before and after births to safeguard babies

Rationale:

- Recent local and national case reviews as well as assurance work of the partnership have highlighted safeguarding risks to babies:
- National increase in number and proportion of serious safeguarding incidents that relate to baby deaths and harm to babies.
- Two national reviews, three local reviews, and three further rapid reviews regarding baby deaths, exploring: shaken babies; contact and working with fathers/males; substance misuse; pre and post-birth planning; safer sleeping.
- Covid-19 response has affected services for expectant and new mothers, and has been seen to cause additional stress in family environments, which can increase risk factors

Priority 2. Child Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Rationale:

- Previous case reviews, assurance work and work with young people have identified the following which require further work and assurance:

-
- Gap in joint working when children in need of safeguarding have been referred to mental health services
 - Young people report mental health support needs not always well understood by schools (being addressed by Welfare Education Return training)
 - Follow up to 2021 assurance work regarding safeguarding and CAMHS waiting lists
 - Young people tell us that effective mental health support remains a high priority for them.
 - Surveys and cases suggest ongoing COVID-19 restrictions are having an impact on mental health of children and young people.
 - There is ongoing work re: design of services and pathways for child mental health that will link with safeguarding.

Priority 3. Domestic Abuse and Child Safeguarding

Rationale:

- There is outstanding development and assurance work regarding previous priorities around Domestic Abuse in relation to safeguarding children.
- Domestic abuse is often a key factor in complex safeguarding cases and Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Domestic abuse has been a more prominent feature in child safeguarding cases during the last year

Priority 4. Harm outside the Home / Contextual safeguarding

Rationale:

- Contextual safeguarding approach agreed as strategic approach for safeguarding children at risk from extra-familial threat/harm outside the home.
- Risks of harm from outside the home, e.g. child criminal exploitation, violence related to young people may increase or become more visible in Covid-19 recovery.
- Developing national approach regarding 'serious youth violence'

Priority 5. Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds

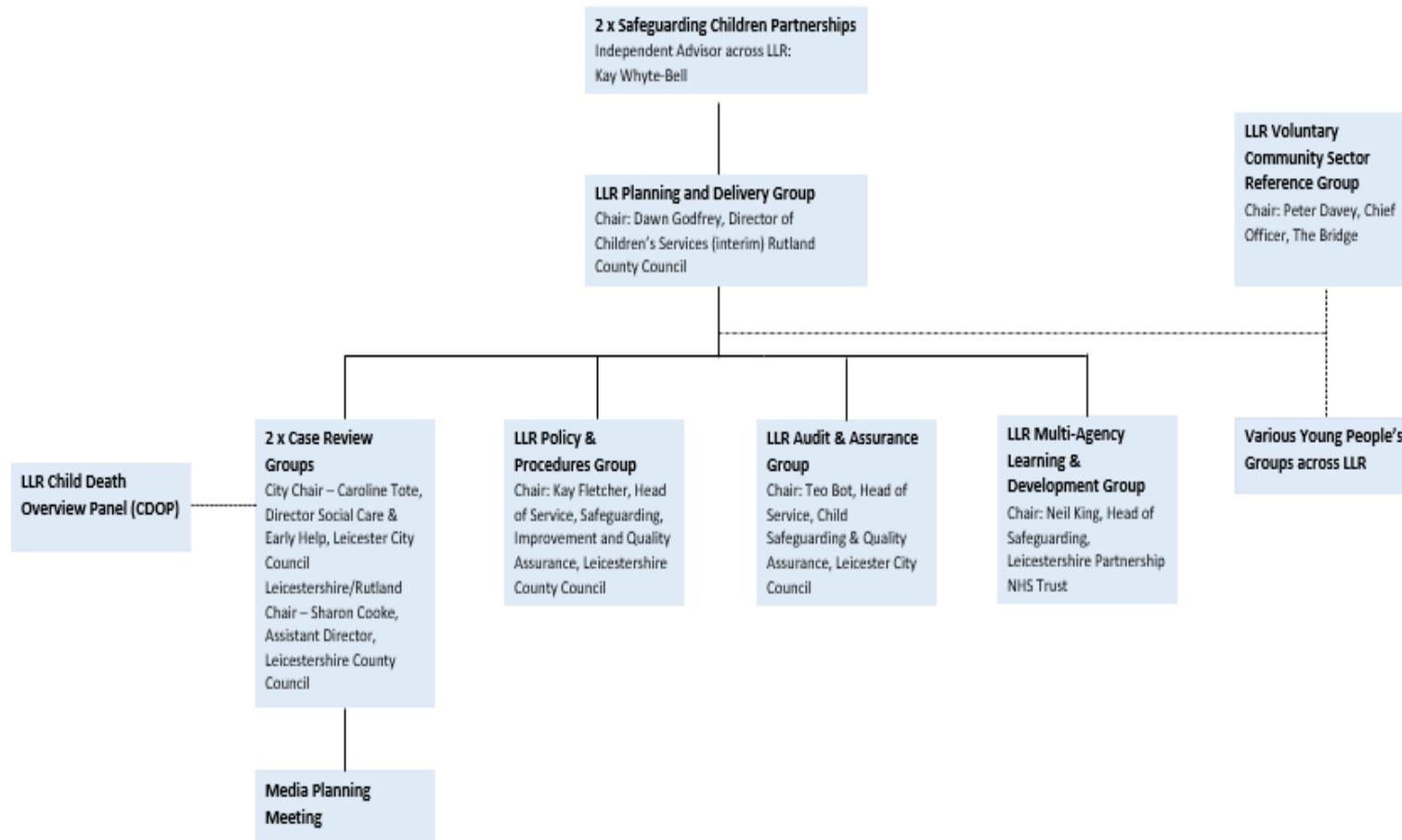
Rationale:

- The SCPs do not have information on whether the ethnic or cultural background of a child or other diversity factors have an impact on how well agencies work together with children and their families to safeguard children.

7. APPENDIX A: JOINT LSCPB/LRSCP GOVERNANCE CHART



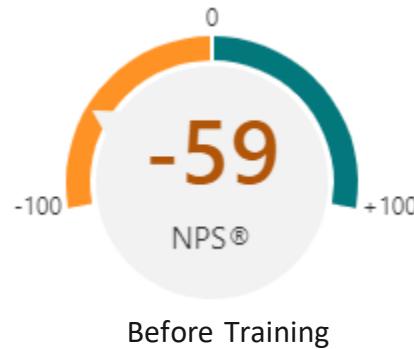
Joint Governance Chart 2020



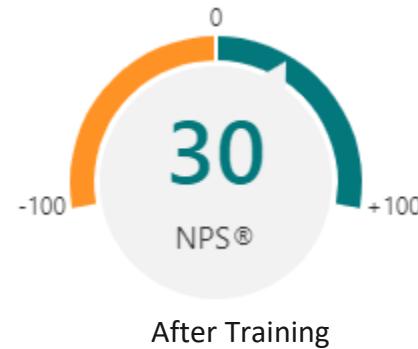
APPENDIX B: TRAINING ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Our Evaluation Analysis shows us the response to questions around knowledge, confidence and skills. With scores for each question scaling from 1-10 there was an increase in points across evaluated training in all areas of knowledge, confidence, and skills.

Knowledge: an increase of 89 points across the evaluated training

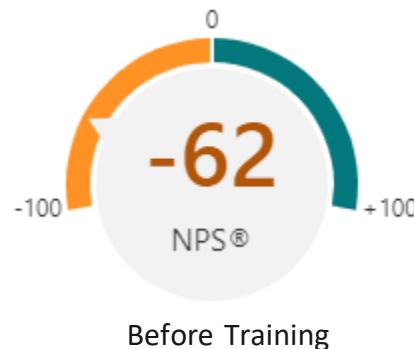


Before Training

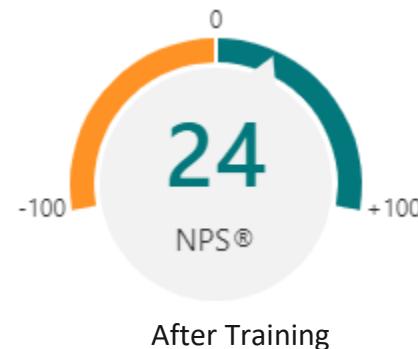


After Training

Confidence: an increase of 86 points across the evaluated training

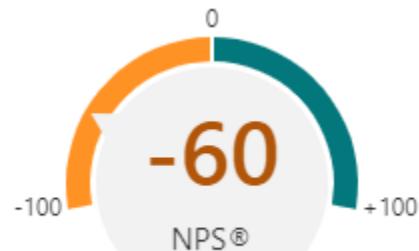


Before Training

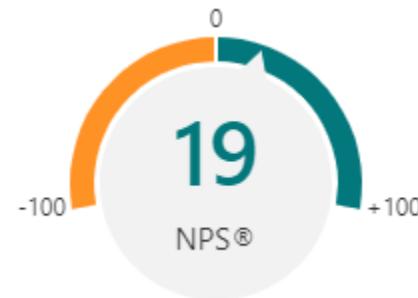


After Training

Skills: an increase of 79 points across evaluated training



Before Training



After Training

The training delivery also receives positive qualitative feedback:

“Very well delivered and the trainers were very well informed. Subject matter delivered sensitively with interesting research” (Senior Safeguarding Practitioner, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, attending The Impact of ACEs and Trauma on CYP).

“I found the safeguard core awareness course very informative. Being a newly qualified practitioner, I was not confident in procedures of identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns. I now feel confident and skilled in this” (Pre- School Assistant, attending Core Awareness in Safeguarding CYP).

“Trainer was very knowledgeable. Presentation of course was organised well & clear & easy to understand. Slides were very useful. I found the case studies to be very useful especially when we split into groups and used to discuss.” (City Based Youth Group Manager attending Anti-Discriminatory Practice).

“Absolutely fantastic learning experience. Incredibly in-depth, knowledgeable and informative” (Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner - Leicestershire CC, attending Understanding Neglect and its impact in adolescence).

A particular session that had excellent feedback that links to an update to the Neglect Toolkit following a Leicestershire and Rutland Serious Case Review was ‘Understanding Neglect and its impact in adolescence’. Many very experienced professionals took a lot from this session, which was reflected in the evaluation.

An impact evaluation sent out in Quarter 1 of the 2021/22 business year resulted in 80% of respondents responding “Yes” to the question “Have you used the learning from the training in your everyday work?”

Additional qualitative feedback included: *“This training gave more confidence when talking about mental capacity and awareness of law” and “My assessments now have a more informed consideration when looking at capacity with client cases. Trainer was superb.”* (Mental Capacity Act training)

“Although I am a Health Visitor and so work with 0-5 years this knowledge has been useful in cases with older children and in particular with a large family with a range of children in supporting parents and other professionals to understand the long term impact of neglect” (Neglect and its impact in adolescence training)

“It improved my underpinning knowledge in relation to the topic, it's helped me to understand the issues involved and be able to identify some of the indicators which may show if, if a young person is being subjected to or is involved in this practice.” (Child Exploitation training)

“I complete Life Story Books and Later Life Letters for the Adoption Team. The Course was helpful in connection with writing the Later Life Letters with a trauma informed approach of the experiences of birth parents of their own childhood and adolescence. This then provides an aid for adoptees and adopters to understand more fully why the birth parents would struggle to succeed through trauma events, lack of opportunity throughout childhood, no positive adult models with the family or network, lack of resilient factors within the environment” (Neglect and its impact in adolescence training).

“Considering a more trauma informed way of working and encouraging others to do the same” (ACEs and Trauma Informed Practice).

APPENDIX C: POSTER FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

NO ONE SHOULD FEEL UNSAFE



IF THEY HAVE TO SELF ISOLATE



BECAUSE OF CORONAVIRUS

If you can't go to school because someone there has coronavirus there might be quite a few things you are worried about.

REMEMBER - If someone hurts you or makes you feel unsafe it is not your fault

If you are worried about being at home then you can:

- Tell an adult you trust (parent, teacher or other adult)
- Call Childline on 0800 1111 (this is a free number)
- If you have access to the internet you can go to the Childline website childline.org.uk



Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board
WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

 Safeguarding Children Partnership
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

 Leicester City Council