

7-Minute Briefing - Multi-Agency Casefile Audit on Child Sexual Abuse



Safeguarding
Children Partnership
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

Leicester
Safeguarding
Children Partnership
WORKING TOGETHER
TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

01 Purpose of this Briefing

A multi-agency casefile audit on child sexual abuse was carried out by the Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LLR SCPs) between May and July 2025.

This briefing shares the good practice and learning.

02 Background to Audit

The theme was agreed to support Business Priority 1 on Child Sexual Abuse in the 2025-27 LLR SCP Business Plan.

03 Audit Scope

This audit sought to establish the effectiveness of multi-agency working where concerns about child sexual abuse had been responded to. The scope of the audit was 12 months from 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025. A total of 12 cases were reviewed – 5 from Leicester City, 5 from Leicestershire and 2 from Rutland.

07 Resources to support practice

Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (Sarah's Law)

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law)

Engaging Fathers and Male carers

06 Reviewing Practice

-Are you considering therapeutic support that could help the child?

-Are you applying professional curiosity and ensuring you're not fixed in your thinking?

-Are the families you are working with aware of Sarah's Law and Clare's Law if they have concerns about someone in contact with a child?

05 Learning Points

- The Audit Group believe there was an under use of the PSARC in some cases.
- Issues around therapeutic work have been identified and further scoping work is needed.
- Practitioners could have been more professionally curious around how child sexual abuse could be affecting a child's behaviours.
- There can be a gap in information sharing when agencies have contact with individuals who are in new relationships with people alleged to have committed sexual offences.
- The audit found that, sometimes, there was an overreliance on mothers in terms of making referrals, keeping practitioners up to date with the current situation and to be the protectors of their children.
- There can be challenges sharing information when there are live Police investigations.
- The Partnership has seen an improvement in engagement of fathers. There are still some issues with including birth fathers in assessments when they are no longer part of the immediate family.
- There is an information sharing gap regarding children in need, particularly around GP Practices being notified of child in need status.
- Some agencies reported not receiving minutes from Strategy Discussions.



04 What worked well

-Several GP Practices held Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings where children experiencing or at risk of sexual harm were discussed.

-In a Leicester case involving asylum seeking parents, the safety planning considered the impact of culture and religion.

-In a Leicestershire case, where a young girl disclosed sexually harming her brother but then withdrew her disclosure, hypotheses were developed and changed over time and professionals were not fixed in their thinking.

-Overall, LPT attended multi-agency meetings when invited or sent reports in place of attendance. Some excellent work by School Nurses was identified.

-The PSARC (Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centre) made therapeutic referrals and carried out child protection medicals when requested. Where they received referrals that did not meet their thresholds, they fed back to referrers.

-There was an example of excellent ChISVA (Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) work, with plans updated at every contact, the child's concerns being used to plan upcoming sessions and the child's lived experience outside of sexual abuse being recorded.

-In a very complex case, Rutland Children's Social Care have been proactive in planning for the perpetrator's release and the potential risk this will pose.