



**Safeguarding
Children Partnership**
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

Leicestershire and Rutland Multi- Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Working Together for children and
young people in Leicestershire and
Rutland to be safe, well and achieve
their full potential

Updated October 2022

Foreword

Our vision is for children & young people in Leicestershire and Rutland to be safe, well and achieve their full potential

Safeguarding the most vulnerable children in Leicestershire and Rutland is a high priority for our organisations and all partners.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership has been established to oversee the multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements as required by the government guidance Working Together 2018.

All partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements and are committed to the principles that support these arrangements.

As leaders we recognise that safeguarding children cannot be achieved in isolation from other organisations, partnerships, or our communities. As a partnership we will provide leadership and joint accountability to provide protection, support and representation for those in greatest need.

We believe in prevention and that it is better to act before harm occurs, while seeking the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

We want all agencies to focus on building strength and resilience within families rather than promoting dependency and ultimately this will increase positive outcomes for children, young people and families.

We aim to provide local solutions through services working with their communities, we will promote a child-centred approach and continue to do our best to listen to the views and understand the needs of children and families in Leicestershire and Rutland. We will do our best to ensure people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions with informed consent, but where children need to be protected we will take decisive action to safeguard them.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and for services to be effective each citizen, practitioner and organisation should play their part.

We ask you the communities of Leicestershire and Rutland to play your part to help us understand the needs of children and families in our area and help us in preventing harm.

As a partnership we will be sticking to our principles and aims:

- for clear accountability
- for clear and demonstrable influence and
- for equitable and fair contributions from all partners

We will be continuing to make sure that effective systems are in place to protect children from abuse and to prevent impairment to children's health and development. We want to be sure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care. We will ensure that action takes place to continue to improve practice and to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes.

Contents

Foreword	2
1. Purpose	4
2. Background	4
3. Partnership area and Safeguarding Partners	5
4. Principles and Aims	7
5. Accountability and Governance	9
6. Partnership Structure	9
7. Independent Scrutiny of the Arrangements	11
8. Funding the Arrangements	12
9. Membership and Role of Partnership Groups	12
10. Involvement of Relevant Agencies	16
11. Involvement of Schools and Early Years Settings	17
12. Involvement of Youth Custody and Residential Homes	19
13. Responding to the Voice of Children and Families	20
14. Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	21
15. Partnership Assurance Framework	22
16. Data and information transfer	25
17. Inter-agency training	25
19. Resolution of disputes	27
Endorsement of the safeguarding arrangements	28
Appendix A -The Role of Independent Advisor	29



1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out how the safeguarding partners and other organisations will work together to safeguard children and young people in the Leicestershire and Rutland. These local safeguarding partnership arrangements are in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018.

2. Background

The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 set out specific duties for local authorities, working with partner organisations and agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 puts a duty on the local authority to provide services to children in need in their area; section 47 of the same Act requires local authorities to undertake enquiries if they believe a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm.

These duties can only realistically be discharged with the full co-operation of other partners, many of whom have individual duties when carrying out their functions under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

Working Together 2018 specifies that in order to safeguard children and to achieve the best possible outcomes, children and families should receive services in a coordinated way. The guidance sets out that a safeguarding partner in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- i. the local authority Chief Executive
- ii. the accountable officer of an Integrated Care Board for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area
- iii. the chief officer of police for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area

Join-up locally rests with the safeguarding partners, the police, Integrated Care Board and the local authorities, who have a shared and equal duty to agree and make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

The arrangements were initially approved by the safeguarding partners' governance bodies in June 2019. This is the second update to these arrangements, published in October 2022. It incorporates changes made in response to the Wood Review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements 2021.

In accordance with the requirements and inclusions prescribed in Working Together 2018 (pp 79-80) these arrangements are:

- arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area
- arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews
- arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements

3. Partnership area and Safeguarding Partners

The arrangements cover the local authority areas of Leicestershire and Rutland;

Leicester City have separate multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, however there are several partners that work across both areas, so the Leicestershire and Rutland Partnership will maintain close ties with the Leicester City Safeguarding Partnership Board. The two partnerships will be supported by a number of joint meetings across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland and work jointly on priorities and projects where relevant.



The Partnership is led by the Safeguarding Partners as defined in Working Together 2018. Locally these are:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Rutland County Council
- Leicestershire Police
- Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Integrated Care Board

The Chief Officers of these organisations retain the responsibility as safeguarding partners, however they have delegated the function of this role as follows:

Leicestershire County Council: The Chief Executive has delegated their safeguarding partner function to the Director of Children and Family Services.

Rutland County Council: The Chief Executive has delegated their safeguarding partner function to the Director of Children Services.

Leicestershire Police: The Chief Constable has delegated their safeguarding partner function to the Head of Serious Crime – Child Safeguarding (Supt.).

Integrated Care Board: The Chief Executive has delegated their safeguarding partner function to the Director of Nursing and Quality.

In all cases this delegation is in line with the strategic leadership approach in their organisation and ensures the appropriate authority and expertise is involved in the leadership of multi-agency arrangements, supported by existing communication and reporting routes.

Delegates will operate as Safeguarding Partners in day to day matters and represent the entirety of their organisation. This includes leadership of the Safeguarding arrangements, setting the agenda of the partnership and decision making with regard to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other partnership business.

Delegation is summarised as follows:

Full statutory partners	Delegated Officers
Sign-off arrangements document	Decisions regarding Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (carrying out, finalising and publishing)
Delegation of functions relating to the arrangements	Changes to partnership structure and membership
Funding principles	Funding contributions
Alignment or links with other strategic partnerships	Hosting and structure of support function for arrangements
Agree Annual Report	Appointment of Independent Scrutiny
Dispute resolution	Set the partnership business plan
	Engagement approaches
	Oversee effectiveness of the arrangements
	Other partnership matters

Delegates will provide a quarterly update to the Statutory Safeguarding partners outlining developments and decision making and providing assurance allowing the statutory safeguarding partners to retain oversight in line with their responsibility. This will include appropriate information to ensure ownership of findings and action plans from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Each of the Safeguarding Partners provides representatives at an appropriate level on the SCP Planning and Delivery Group, Case Review Group and other Sub-groups.

Other relevant agencies locally including schools are involved with the Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements as outlined in section 10 and 11.

4. Principles and Aims

Principles

The principles of the arrangements are:

- There should be clear governance and leadership from the safeguarding partners which have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements
- a sharpened focus on a small number of critical identified priorities that maximise the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements
- appropriate scrutiny of multi-agency frontline practice and evidence of the impact of lessons learned from audits and reviews
- clarity of accountability and expected contributions of agencies to the arrangements
- effective processes to ensure statutory requirements for consideration of serious incident notifications, rapid review and local child safeguarding practice reviews including arrangements for funding of these
- improved efficiency - reduction in duplication of reporting and demand for meeting time
- clearly defined business support functions with capacity to adequately support the arrangements
- transparent budget agreements between the statutory partners
- a published description of how independent scrutiny of the arrangements will be ensured
- consistency and alignment across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area where possible
- links to other structures across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

Aims

The strategic aims of partnership are to ensure that effective systems are in place which support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision as to how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

With the intention of:

- Understanding the perspectives of children and young people by asking for their views, listening to them and letting them know what we have done as a result
- Focusing on the impact of all forms of child abuse and neglect
- Learning and disseminating learning, from local and national research and case reviews
- Continuing to identify indicators of the prevalence of all forms of child abuse and neglect in Leicestershire and Rutland and to measure progress in tackling this
- Maintaining an overview of the range of provision, services and interventions delivered to reduce the impact of abuse and neglect
- Supporting and scrutinising steps taken to reduce risk of abuse and neglect
- Monitoring, supporting and assuring the improvement of the quality of practice and impact across partner agencies
- Improving and integrating performance monitoring
- Supporting communication and information sharing
- Identifying the barriers to translating lessons learned into improved practice and strategies to overcome these barriers
- Turning findings from learning and quality assurance into measurable action



5. Accountability and Governance

Strong leadership is critical for the new arrangements to be effective in bringing together the various organisations and agencies. It is important therefore that the delegated lead representative from each of the safeguarding partners plays an active role.

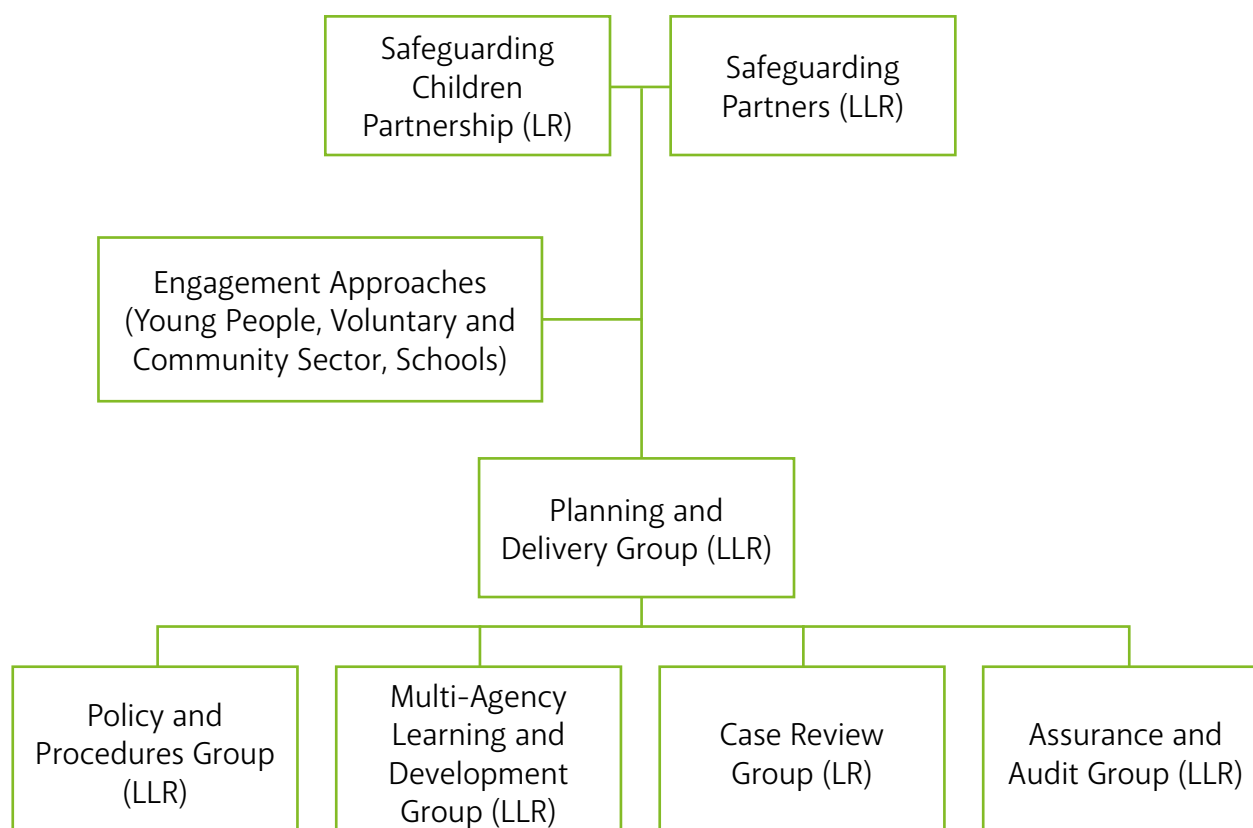
Clear governance is essential, ensuring that where other Boards or bodies have lead accountability for key areas of work, the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements do not duplicate that work, but offer a critical friend/advocacy role.

To be effective these new arrangements will continue to link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families for example the Health and Wellbeing Boards, Strategic Partnership Board and Youth Offending Service Management Board.

The governance arrangements are further supported by the requirement for the safeguarding partners to publish the local safeguarding arrangements and to report at least once in every 12-month period setting out what has been done as a result of the arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. More detail on the annual report and measuring effectiveness of the arrangements can be found in section 15.

6. Partnership Structure

The structure of the new Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership is as follows.



The structure has been developed in discussion with Statutory partners for Leicester City and groups marked (LLR) will work across this Partnership and the Leicester safeguarding children arrangements.

The LRSCP meets quarterly.

The Planning and Delivery Group Group meets six times per year to scrutinise the work of the sub-groups; monitor and respond to assurance reports; agree learning and development arrangements; and carry out the business of the Partnership.

Each subgroup has its own terms of reference and meets between the Planning and Delivery Group meetings.

The Planning and Delivery Group will report the overall actions and the outcomes of all subgroup, and other activity, to the Partnership.

The terms of reference for all groups include details of:

- remit
- membership and
- frequency of meetings

These are available on the partnership website **www.lrsb.org.uk/lrscp**

The safeguarding partners from the LRLSCP meet with the safeguarding partners for the Leicester City area for a leadership discussion to include sharing intelligence, reviewing key priorities and strategic commissioning.

In addition to the above structure, task and finish groups will be commissioned as necessary on specific themes in line with in-year priorities and where possible on a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland basis.

Business Support

The entire LRSCP structure is supported by the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Partnership Business Office comprising of:

- Business Office Manager
- Partnership Business and Support Officers
- Safeguarding Learning Project Development Officer and Project Officer (shared with Leicester City arrangements)
- Administrative support

The Business Office is shared with the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board and currently hosted by Leicestershire County Council.

7. Independent Scrutiny of the Arrangements

Working Together 2018 defines independent scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements as:

- providing assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area
- part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections
- objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement
- considering 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 2018 identifies that the published arrangements should set out the plans for independent scrutiny; how the arrangements will be reviewed; and how any recommendations will be taken

The local definition for the purpose of this function is scrutiny by persons not employed by any of the statutory partners named in Working Together 2018. Further to that scrutiny of the wider partnership arrangements and relevant agencies contribution should be done by persons not employed by those agencies. The arrangements for independent scrutiny will be reviewed as part of the annual report.

The overall scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements across the two counties is, of course, provided by the LRSCP. The LRSCP requests individual assurance reports from partners on a regular basis.

In terms of independent scrutiny, the Safeguarding Partners have agreed that, an Independent Advisor will be appointed to provide external and independent scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements including decisions relating to local practice reviews and notifications to national bodies. The role of the Independent Advisor is included as Appendix A. The Independent Advisor will also participate in an annual safeguarding learning and development event for safeguarding partners to promote transparency and participate in statutory inspections as appropriate.

The Lead Member for Children's Services in local authorities holds key political accountability for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable and their families and carers, are addressed. In doing so, they work closely with other local partners to improve the outcomes and well-being of children and young people. Therefore, the Leicestershire and Rutland Lead Members for Children and Education will attend LRSCP meetings in a participant observer role, rather than as partnership members, to maintain their independence to facilitate this.

Hearing and Responding to the 'voice' of children and young people will run through all LRSCP business and LRSCP Business Plan. The SCP will draw on the engagement work of its partners with children and families and work with partners to carry out additional engagement work where required.

The option of commissioning peer reviews of arrangements remains open.

Relevant agencies will also form part of the scrutiny of the arrangement agreed by the statutory partners. This allows for scrutiny questions to be asked of and sought from relevant agencies named in the arrangements on specific matters, as long as this is within their scope of knowledge and understanding e.g. schools may be asked to comment on their experience of the effectiveness of early help arrangements, excluding those which they have a part in delivering.

8. Funding the Arrangements

The arrangements will be funded through equitable contributions from the safeguarding partners.

Principles for future funding of the arrangements have been agreed. Details of funding and resources will be published in the LRSCP Annual Report each year.

9. Membership and Role of Partnership Groups

The Safeguarding Children Partnership

The LRSCP will be the strategic leadership group. It will consist of Director level representatives from the five statutory safeguarding partner organisations and relevant agencies. Other organisations will be invited to attend as appropriate. The LRSCP will be chaired by the delegated representatives of the Safeguarding Partners in turn and will normally meet quarterly.

Membership of the Partnership is defined in the LRSCP Terms of Reference as being representatives at senior leadership level with sufficient seniority to:

- speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent
- take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters
- hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements

Anyone entrusted with attending in their place would need to have similar delegated authority.

All partner representatives are expected to take an active part in disseminating information and learning throughout their organisations.

The LRSCP retains the flexibility to co-opt additional partner representatives at partnership or sub-group level as required.

An increasing amount of the work of the Partnership will be carried out using online communications channels. This will increase the capacity of the Partnership and the involvement of partner agencies.



Safeguarding Partners

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners will meet at least eight times per year with their counterparts from Leicester City.

This meeting will consider shared matters of governance and funding, as well as setting the forward agenda for SCP meetings and sharing intelligence. The Independent Advisor will be invited to these meetings where appropriate.

Planning and Delivery Group

The Group will be shared with Leicester SCP and will co-ordinate the business of the LRSCP and ensure the delivery of the business plan. Core Membership of this group is the safeguarding partners, represented at Assistant Director, Heads of Safeguarding or Safeguarding lead level. Heads of Safeguarding or Safeguarding leads from relevant agencies as outlined in section 10, chairs of subgroups and others will be invited as necessary. The group is chaired by a senior safeguarding partner.

The Group, and notably the Chair, will have a significant workload including ensuring delivery of the LRSCP business plan, commissioning and managing subgroups, and scrutinising assurance reports and new policy. It will report directly to the LRSCP. The Planning and Delivery Group leads on work to evaluate the effectiveness of local safeguarding practice:

- Providing Scrutiny in monitoring the work of LRSCP subgroups
- Reviewing and acting on performance information and single and multi-agency audit findings where they affect safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Making recommendations to the Partnership in regard to supporting, commending and challenging safeguarding policy and practice across the workforce

The Planning and Delivery Group ensures that the 'business' agreed at strategic level by the Partnership is carried out effectively.

The Planning and Delivery Group is also charged with the overview of multi-agency inspection activity, preparation and outcomes and for monitoring actions in response to these.

Members of the Planning and Delivery Group will have knowledge and expertise in child protection and safeguarding plus knowledge and influence regarding performance and practice.

Policy and Procedures Group

This group will consist of officers from across the safeguarding partnership, including representatives of the five safeguarding partners, and will be run as a joint group with the Leicester SCPB. It will report to the Planning and Delivery Group and will have Responsibility for the review and evaluation of the thresholds document.

Multi Agency Learning and Development Group

The LRSCP will carry out a Training Needs Analysis each year to identify what training is required locally. This will be informed by partnership priorities, the outcome of reviews and audits, and other local/national issues.

Training, both face-to-face and online, will be commissioned based on this for the year ahead with a margin of flexibility built in to address any emerging priorities and issues. This will be co-ordinated by the multi-agency learning and development group run jointly with Leicester arrangements. For more information see section 17.

Case Review Group (CRG)

The Case Review Group (CRG) will consider referrals for local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and receive notifications and referrals; ensure rapid reviews are undertaken and reports are prepared to be sent to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The group will commission and quality assure reviews and consider and disseminate learning from reviews (local, other local authorities and national). More information on these process can be found in section 14.

This group runs as a joint group with Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Review Group and is also commissioned to oversee the carrying out of Domestic Homicide Reviews. The group works to a CSPR policy and processes that is shared with the Leicester SCPB.

Working Together 2018 guidance requires that there should be independent scrutiny of the arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This will be provided by the independent advisor. The Chair of the group will be the local authority lead from Leicestershire County Council with responsibility for notifications to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Membership will consist of safeguarding leads from safeguarding partners and relevant agencies as outlined in Section 10.



Child Death Overview Panel

The partnership will link with the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which operates the Child death review arrangements to enable reciprocal reporting of any safeguarding concerns. This will be provided by the Chair of the CDOP. The Child Death Review arrangements are published online at the following address <http://lrsb.org.uk/child-death-overview-panel-cdop>

Assurance and Audit Group

This group oversees and analyses data and assurance work regarding multi-agency safeguarding of Children, including multi-agency audits, within the Partnership's Performance and Quality Assurance Framework. This is a joint group with the Leicester SCP and reports to the Planning and Delivery Group. This group incorporates representatives from the statutory partners and relevant agencies.

Inter-Board Partnership Arrangements

Of key importance to the Partnership is that a focus on children and young people is maintained by all partnerships when addressing contextual safeguarding such as extra-familial threats. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking and modern slavery, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation.

These arrangements have resulted in, among other initiatives, joint training, joint awareness-raising and contribution to each other's plans and strategies.

An opportunity for constructive support and challenge between these partnerships is sustained by this arrangement. The Safeguarding Children Partnership will have key links with, provide information to and seek relevant assurances through the following partnership boards:

- Strategic Partnership Board (including the Vulnerability Executive that leads the strategic overview and delivery of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland response to the exploitation of children)
- Youth Offending Service Management Board
- Leicestershire Health and Well Being Board
- Rutland Health and Well Being Board
- Leicestershire Children and Family Partnership
- Rutland Children's Trust
- Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board
- Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board
- Rutland Community Safety Partnership

10. Involvement of Relevant Agencies

Whilst safeguarding is the responsibility of all agencies a number of agencies have specific responsibilities as outlined in Working Together 2018. Relevant agencies identified by the Partnership will be involved in the LRSCP in different ways as follows.

This difference takes account of different roles and is designed to ensure that those who meet face to face have a primary concern in safeguarding children, whilst those organisations which undertake another role are still fully involved in the child safeguarding business of the LRSCP, despite other calls on their time and attention.

The following relevant agencies play a key role in safeguarding children through the services they provide in the area and the majority of these operate across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. These will be members of the LRSCP and provide representatives on other subgroups as required. They may attend the Partnership meeting or act as 'virtual members' receiving minutes of board meetings and attending as necessary, they will provide assurance directly or through their commissioners as identified in section 15:

- University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL)
- Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)
- District and Borough Councils in Leicestershire (Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council)
- National Probation Service
- Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- East Midlands Ambulance Service

District and Borough Councils will normally be represented at meetings by a single individual nominated from across all districts.

Schools and Voluntary and Community Sector agencies play a significant role in the lives of children and young people and have a significant role in safeguarding children. Due to the number and variety of these relevant agencies they will provide assurance and engage with the partnership through specific arrangements.

Arrangements for engagement with schools and early years providers are outlined in section 11.

Voluntary and Community Sector agencies will be engaged through a Voluntary and Community Sector Reference Group for the Partnership shared with the Leicester Partnership. This will provide a two-way link with the sector to support effective safeguarding in voluntary sector agencies and across the partnership. The chair of this group will attend the Planning and Delivery Group for specific items.

The following relevant agencies provide or commission services that play an important role in safeguarding children and young people. They will be 'virtual members' of the partnership to receive minutes of board meetings and provide assurance and be involved in the partnership as required as they work across the region and issues of capacity may prevent attendance at meetings:

- CAFCASS
- NHS England

Other commissioned health service providers operating in the area or providing services to residents of the area will provide assurance through their commissioners and be involved directly in the partnership as required.

11. Involvement of Schools and Early Years Settings

In Leicestershire there are:

- 47 secondary schools
- 222 primary schools
- 3 special schools
- 14 independent special schools
- 14 independent schools
- 6 FE Colleges
- 1 pupil referral unit

In Rutland there are:

- 3 secondary schools
- 17 primary schools
- 3 independent schools
- 2 independent special schools
- 1 maintained specialist nursery school
- No FE colleges
- No pupil referral units

At time of publication, in Leicestershire 138 of the primary schools and 46 secondary schools and in Rutland 15 of the primary schools and all three secondary schools had been granted academy status.

Each Local Authority will produce a yearly Safeguarding through Education report for the Safeguarding Partnership highlighting:

- Confirmation that schools and other education providers are adhering to Safeguarding in Education guidance regardless of status
- Ofsted report results published during the year and issues highlighted in reports regarding positive safeguarding practice or concerns
- What action has been taken to address concerns
- Analysis of responses to the Schools Safeguarding Survey/Safeguarding through Education audit carried out by Local Authorities on behalf of the partnership
- Other key areas identified through the activity of Local Authority Children services in and with schools
- Other training and safeguarding activity undertaken by the local authority education services to support schools

Schools and Early Years providers play a vital part in safeguarding children. The following approach has been put in place to support two-way communication and engagement between the SCPs and education settings in the area.

Partnership membership and involvement

Headteachers from one school of each of the different school sectors are members of the SCP. For specific pieces of development or review work the SCP will link with existing headteacher forums for the area and schools may be invited to be directly involved.

Forums

The local authorities run termly safeguarding lead forums or briefings open to all schools in the local area to attend. These forums provide an opportunity for communication between schools and with partners together focussed on safeguarding including learning from reviews, changes to legislation and procedures and emerging trends and needs.

In addition the partnership, with the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership, runs a safeguarding forum for independent schools at least once per year to allow a focus on matters specific to independent schools.

Local authorities also provide support and information on safeguarding to early years providers.

News and updates

All schools are able to sign up to the partnerships Safeguarding Matters newsletter, as well as specific education bulletins that support awareness of learning from reviews and developing practice in safeguarding provided by the local authorities.

Audit/Survey

Local Authorities carry out a safeguarding survey or audit each year. This gives a route for schools to reflect on and provide assurance to the Safeguarding Children Partnership of their approach to safeguarding. These also support the partnership to identify needs for further development, communication or training.

Training

In addition to the broad partnership programme of multi-agency safeguarding training, specific training for schools and early years providers regarding safeguarding is provided through the local authorities. All schools including the independent sector and other settings, such as out of school clubs and local Ministry of Defence Welfare teams are invited to take part in this. There is a charge to access some of this training.



12. Involvement of Youth Custody and Residential Homes

The Youth Offending Team reports to Youth Offending Board and will continue to report to the Partnership via the Local Authority Children's Services representatives on the Partnership.

The Youth Offending Team is represented on the LRSCP through Leicestershire County Council and on other sub-groups as required.

There are no Youth Custody homes within the local authority areas but those which are in the region which house young people from the area will be required to report on arrangements as and when necessary.

The Local Authorities do not run any residential homes for children. The Local Authorities take oversight of all issues raised in Ofsted reports for residential homes in the area and follow up those where local authority looked-after children are placed, with appropriate monitoring and action to support good outcomes for those children.

Assurance will be sought from providers and the local authorities about the safe and effective running of all independent residential homes and foster care agencies who have a responsibility to notify the local authority of safeguarding issues. This includes children from Leicester City placed in Leicestershire and Rutland and vice versa.

The partnership has procedures for notification of transfer of Children Looked After and safeguarding incidents regarding Children Looked After placed out-of-area, and placed in area by other authorities. A partnership network brings together professionals to oversee and address issues with notifications and Local Authorities follow up when notifications have not been made.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Councils Corporate Parenting Boards have responsibility for all children looked after by the Councils, including those placed outside the area.



13. Responding to the Voice of Children and Families

Hearing and Responding to the voice and lived experience of children is a recurring thread throughout everything that the Safeguarding Partnership does and the LRSCP Business Plan.

The partnership will ensure that its engagement work is meaningful and makes a difference to the lives of children and families.

It will:

- Assess how organisations are hearing and responding to the voice and lived experience of children in safeguarding work.
- Incorporate what existing engagement work of partners is telling us about children and families' priorities and needs when setting priorities and scoping development work
- Commission and carry out additional engagement or participation work on specific matters where existing engagement work is not sufficient.

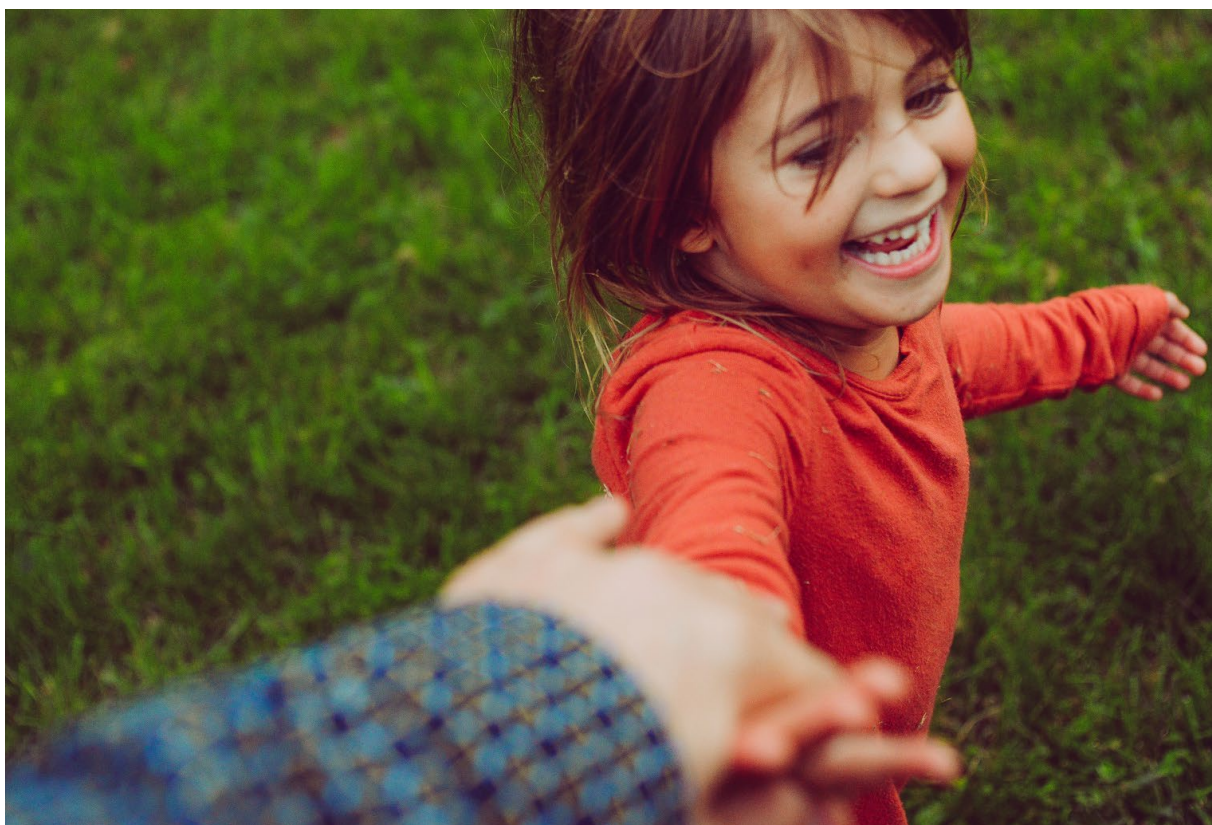
Subgroups are expected to report in every Highlight Report to the Partnership on how the group has considered the voice of children and young people.

Each partner must include an outline in the Agency Assurance Report of how the agency ensures that they appropriately listen and respond to the voice of children and young people.

Audit work includes a focus on how parents and carers have been included in the planning for children.

Parents and carers who may be involved in cases which are reviewed are informed of the review and asked if they wish to make their own contribution. Advocates are offered if these would be appropriate.

The partnership will consider the priorities young people have identified in existing engagement work when setting partnership priorities.



Processes

14. Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

On being informed of a notifiable incident, the LRSCP will undertake a Rapid Review in line with published guidance in Working Together 2018 in order to make decisions and to inform the initial recommendation of the LRSCP to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) about whether a local child safeguarding practice review is required.

The responsibility for considering cases for Child Safeguarding Practice Review and for informing the Panel lies with the Case Review Group (CRG). The Independent Advisor will advise on the decision and the final decision making be will by representatives of the Safeguarding Partners on the CRG.

The Terms of Reference for the CRG will cover all requirements and timescales in Chapter 4 of Working Together 2018 including notifications of serious incidents.

A policy and procedure for considering notifiable incidents and non-notifiable, but serious, incidents for Safeguarding Review is in place.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews will be commissioned using regional and national information on known reviewers and their expertise. These reviewers will be assessed and selected by representatives of LRSCP and the CRG based on previous work and experience and recommendations.

Reviews will be published, as outlined in Chapter 4 of Working Together 2018, on the LRSCP website.

Exceptions to publication will be discussed with the national Child Safeguarding Review Panel.

Each Review also results in an action plan which will be monitored by the CRG and then actions and outcomes re-reviewed and or/audited to ensure that they are embedded in practice.

Each review results in a plan to disseminate learning across the multi-agency workforce.



15. Partnership Assurance Framework

The Partnership has agreed a Performance and Quality Assurance Framework. The purpose of the framework is for the partnership to:

- be assured of continuous improvement in the safeguarding effectiveness of local arrangements for children
- promote and ensure effectiveness of multi-agency collaboration
- secure and evidence improvement in practice from multi-agency assurance reports, audits, local practice reviews and training and development

At the heart of this assurance framework are five simple questions:

- Are we improving our ability to keep children safe and how do we know?
- What did we do?
- How much did we do?
- How well did we do it? and
- What difference did it make?

The diagram below shows the outline of the framework. The full framework document can be found here <https://lrsb.org.uk/aboutlrsbp>



Assurance Framework

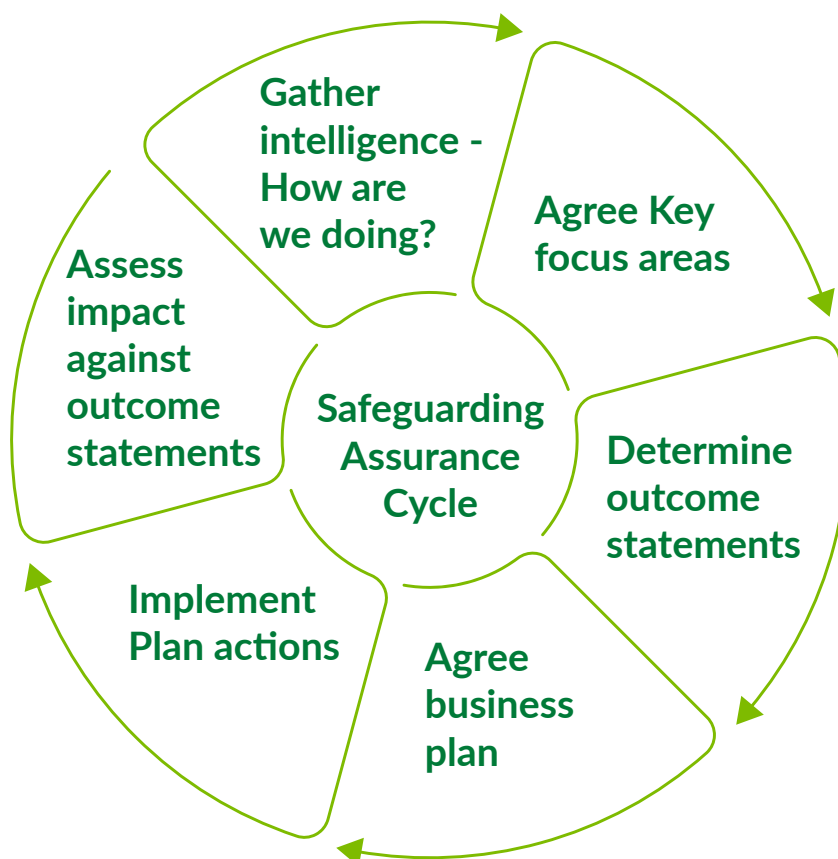
In summary the framework will include the following elements in order to understand and evaluate effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding of children::

- a range of core data from across partners
- safeguarding assurance reports from safeguarding partners and relevant agencies
- multi-agency audits and assurance processes
- views of children, families and workers
- reports on progress on partnership priorities from agencies and sub-groups
- progress on improvements following case review and assurance processes

From these a quarterly ‘How are we doing?’ assurance report will be produced by the Planning and Delivery Group. This will assess impact against agreed outcome statements, draw together analysis of available evidence and be a composite report to the Partnership highlighting what we are doing well, areas for further exploration and actions for the next period.

Safeguarding Assurance Cycle Process

The diagram below outlines the safeguarding assurance cycle for the Partnership. This is outlined in more detail in the Quality Assurance Framework.



Forward planning

The Partnership will work to a rolling three-year 'quality assurance timetable' which will be updated annually in the business plan.

There will be an annual evaluation of what practice improvements have been delivered through learning and development activities. The partnership will carry out a Training Needs Analysis each year to identify what training is required locally. This will be informed by partnership priorities, the evaluation of learning and development from the previous year, outcome of reviews and audits, and other local/national issues.

Annual Report

The Safeguarding Partners will publish an Annual Report setting out what has been done by the Partnership, and the partners, to safeguard children and young people during the previous year and how effective the partnership arrangements have been.

This report will include information about:

- Agreed priorities
- Analysis of progress (or lack of progress) against priorities
- Decisions and actions taken by partners
- Feedback from children and young people and how this has been utilised to inform work and influence service provision
- Information on the delivery and impact of multi-agency safeguarding training
- Information on the learning and impact of any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Any changes to the arrangements described in this document will be outlined in the Annual Report and reasons given for those changes.

The Annual Report will independently scrutinised and be endorsed by the LRSCP members.

It will be distributed across all relevant partners for dissemination throughout their organisations.

The LRSCP Annual Report will be published on the Partnership website and copies will be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.

16. Data and information transfer

Data relating to the work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership is managed by the Safeguarding Partnerships' Business Unit, currently hosted by Leicestershire County Council.

Due consideration has been given to the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation and, the Freedom of Information Act.

All pertinent historical records, including any that might be relevant to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, have been retained.

17. Inter-agency training

Working Together 2018 describes how:

Multi-agency training (is) important in supporting (a) collective understanding of local need ... To enable this, the three safeguarding partners should consider what training is needed locally and how they will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any training they commission.'

The Safeguarding Partnership will carry out a Learning Needs Analysis each year to identify what multi-agency training is required locally.

The Learning Needs Analysis (LNA) will be compiled with input from Partnership members, Sub-group Members, and from practitioners across Leicestershire and Rutland.

The LNA is also informed by Partnership priorities, the outcome of reviews and audits, and other issues as they come to light (whether locally or nationally).

Training – both face-to-face and online – is commissioned based on this LNA for the year ahead with a margin of flexibility built in to address any emerging priorities and issues.

Training is evaluated via participant feedback and via a longer-term impact survey for practitioners to understand how they have used what they learnt and the impact it has made.

Attendance figures and feedback is used to adjust, where necessary to the provision of multi-agency training.

All the above is coordinated by the Multi-Agency Learning and Development Group, monitored by the LRSCP Planning and Delivery Group and reported to the Partnership.

18. Accessing Services and Help (Thresholds)

Working Together 2018 requires that the safeguarding partners publish a threshold document, which sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood and, as such, enables practitioners to identify the right support for the right child at the right time.

Children's needs should be determined by a robust assessment which should inform the proportionate service response. Clear thresholds and processes, together with a common understanding of them across local partners, will help to ensure that appropriate referrals for support are made. Such a common understanding can only continue to improve the effectiveness of joint work and lead to better outcomes for children and families.

The document is available online <https://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/> and is used in multi-agency training.

The document contains added information about all safeguarding children themes, links to screening tools and links to local and national procedures, policies, guidelines and research.

It is designed to promote informed decision making and evidenced based enquiries and referrals to First Response in Leicestershire and the Children's Duty Team in Rutland.

There is, in addition, extensive information on the safeguarding website about safeguarding concerns, issues and themes and how to make enquires and referrals regarding concerns about children across the spectrum from early help to statutory intervention.

Information with contact details for concerns about children is on all Partnership communications.

The use of the Threshold Document and the impact on the quality of safeguarding enquiries and referrals will be reviewed on a regular basis.



19. Resolution of disputes

Working Together 2018 (pp 80) specifies that:

“Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies must act in accordance with the arrangements for their area, and will be expected to work together to resolve any disputes locally.”

The Independent advisor or other independent person will support the dispute resolution process. Where the statutory partners cannot come to a unanimous agreement then the advice of the independent advisor should be sought and in coming to a final decision, the response to that advice should be transparent. Each statutory partner retains their own access to legal advice.

The Partnership's Resolution of Disputes process will be clearly outlined on the Partnership's website and in separate guidance.

The guidance will outline principles and processes and when, and at what stage, concerns should be escalated to the safeguarding Partnership, including the referral of cases for consideration for Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

Partners are reminded regularly face-to-face and in communications, that this process exists and where to find guidance.

Useful links

How to raise a concern about a child:

<http://lrsb.org.uk/childreport>

Working Together 2018 guidance:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2

Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2



Endorsement of the safeguarding arrangements

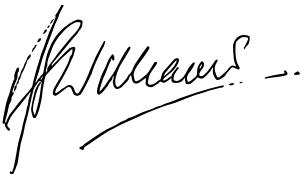
The safeguarding partners responsible for the safeguarding arrangements set out under the Leicestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership have endorsed the arrangements.



John Sinnott
Chief Executive
Leicestershire County Council



Mark Andrews
Chief Executive
Rutland County Council



Andy Williams
Chief Executive , NHS Leicester, Leicestershire
and Rutland (Integrated Care Board)



Rob Nixon
Chief Constable
Leicestershire Police



The Role of Independent Advisor

The Independent Advisor for Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership will support and advise the safeguarding partners to ensure the multi-agency arrangements are effective in safeguarding and promote the welfare of all children.

Through involvement in the main Partnership meetings the Independent Advisor will have oversight of the outcomes of the assurance process.

The Independent Advisor will scrutinise and verify the assurance work and the Annual Report of the Partnership.

The Independent Advisor will provide advice as to whether serious incident cases referred to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel or cases referred to the Case Review Group meet the criteria for a local child safeguarding practice review, based upon the information provided by the Case Review Group. The Advisor will have regard to any guidance which the Panel publishes.

The Independent Advisor will participate in an annual safeguarding learning and development event for safeguarding partners and scrutinise the outcomes from the evaluation of the intelligence gathering to inform the refresh of focus areas. This will also assist with promoting transparency.

The Independent Advisor where appropriate will support the dispute resolution process, providing advice where the Partnership members cannot come to a unanimous agreement.

In addition to the principles, aims and objectives of the Partnership outlined in the safeguarding arrangements document the key considerations of the Independent Advisor in their scrutiny will be:

- How effectively the voices of children and young people are listened to and acted upon.
- How the arrangements are working for children and families, as well as for practitioners, and
- How well the safeguarding partners are providing effective leadership.

