

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP) and Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCP) Joint Business Plan for April 2023 to March 2025

The voice and lived experience of children – how we focus on this and ensure that children and young people have a voice and are heard – is a principle running through all our priorities.

Our **assurance and audit group** will undertake a partnership wide self-assessment with a focus on (i) data for safeguarding children and (ii) the effectiveness of multi-agency practice and leadership in relation to Child Sexual Abuse (see national findings on local multi-agency leadership from IICSA, October 2022).

We have identified five priority areas for us to focus our collective efforts, following the principle that we should concentrate our capacity on a small number of topics, in order to have significant impact, rather than dissipate our resources by trying to do everything. Based on our analysis of the situation across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) we have identified the following priority areas:

1. Safeguarding Babies – Improving how we work together with families before and after births to safeguard babies
2. Child Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing, and Safeguarding
3. Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents
4. Safeguarding Children from Diverse Backgrounds
5. Effective Safeguarding in Independent and Out of School Settings
6. Transitional Safeguarding

For each of these areas, we have set out our rationale for prioritising the topic, and presented the key deliverables, leads, activities, impact measures, and timescales. This will enable us to monitor progress and secure assurance that our actions are making a positive difference to the lived experience of our residents.

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 has 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; possible coercive reproduction

Key Deliverable	Lead	Activity	Impact Measure	Timescale
Measuring the impact of ICON (a programme)	ICON Steering Group (Chair Claire Turnbull)	Obtain data and information to measure the impact of ICON across	N/A as the action is itself measuring impact	Provide report to the January 2024 meeting

focusing on the prevention of Abusive Head Trauma) locally		Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland		of the Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCPs)
Assurance of effectiveness of safeguarding babies	Assurance and Audit Group Chair	Undertake a dip sample of babies up to one year old subject to Child Protection plans across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to consider whether there has been an improvement in safeguarding babies in recent years	N/A	Provide report to the January 2024 meeting of the SCPs
Assurance of effectiveness of safeguarding babies	Assurance and Audit Group (Chair)	Complete a safeguarding babies (pre-birth) multi-agency audit across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and present findings to the SCPs	N/A	Present findings to the July 2023 meeting of the SCPs
Our safeguarding approaches engage effectively with males	All Safeguarding Partners	Through the S11 audit (or alternative) provide evidence of the impact on safeguarding babies of your improved approaches to working with males (see “The Myth of Invisible Men” 2021)	N/A	Findings presented to the March 2024 meeting of the SCPs
	Policy and Procedures Subgroup Chair (Task and Finish Group Chair)	Develop SCP Guidance: Improving identification and engagement with new partners, including males and assessing impact upon children in the household	Workforce engaging effectively with makes, measured by a frontline staff survey during 2024/25 business year	Presented to March 2024 meeting of the SCPs
Improved awareness and understanding locally of coercive reproduction	Multi-Agency Learning and Development Group (MALDG)	Where it exists, to identify learning around coercive reproduction and safeguarding babies and embed this learning into the learning and development offer as appropriate	Improved recognition of and response to coercive reproduction across the local safeguarding system, measured by a frontline staff survey during 2024/25 business year	Quarterly subgroup reports to be provided to Planning and Delivery Group (PDG)
Improve multi-agency understanding	Audit and Assurance Group	Launch and disseminate Multi-agency Safe Sleep Guidance	Improved recognition and response to	Report to SCPs by the end of Q2 2023/24

of safe sleep practice for babies	Chair. CDOP Chair.		parental compliance with safe sleep advice, measured by a frontline staff survey during 2024/25 business year	
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2024/25 work themes / topics:

- Develop and facilitate a frontline staff survey to measure impact of work undertaken
- Progress recommendations from the safeguarding babies (pre-birth) multi-agency audit
- Progress learning obtained from the dip sample of babies up to one year old subject to Child Protection plans
- Continue to measure impact

2. Child Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing, and Safeguarding

Rationale:

- 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
 - Local collaborative response to suicidal ideation in children and young people
- Young people tell us that effective mental health support remains a high priority for them
- Continued follow up to 2021/22 and 2022/23 assurance work regarding safeguarding and CAMHS waiting list

Key Deliverable	Lead	Activity	Impact Measure	Timescale
Receive assurance that children subject to safeguarding arrangements and CAMH services are effectively safeguarded through effective multi-agency working	Planning and Delivery Group Chair	The SCPs via the PDG to continue to seek assurance that mental health and safeguarding are effectively addressed together locally.	The experience of local children and young people	Assurance to be provided by the October 2023 SCPs meeting
		Experiences of local children and young people to be heard. Reports from children's voices captured by advocate at the Child Protection Conference	N/A as this is in itself measuring the impact	By the end of Q4 of 2023/24
	Audit and Assurance Group Chair	Multi-agency dip sample audit of records for children being safeguarded	The experience of local children	By the end of Q4 of 2023/24

		and in receipt of CAMHs	and young people	
Improve local responses to children and young people at risk of suicide	Policy and Procedure Group (Chair)	Review and update local suicide procedures and guidance, taking into account learning from local reviews and the CDOP's themed suicide review (2023).	Data to be identified and obtained across LLR	Policies and procedures to be updated and presented to the January 2024 meeting of the SCPs
2024/25 work themes / topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress learning obtained from the dip sample of children being safeguarded and in receipt of CAMHs Continue to measure impact Progress learning from hearing the experiences of local children and young people subject to child protection processes and Looked After Children and in receipt of CAMHs 				

3. Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents

Rationale:

- Work to develop a life-stage approach to safeguarding children relating to extra-familial threat/harm outside the home.
- Ongoing concerns regarding a clear response to peer-on-peer sexual abuse
- Developing national approach regarding 'serious youth violence'

Key Deliverable	Lead	Activity	Impact Measure	Timescale
Receive assurance that local safeguarding partners are working together to effectively safeguard children from extra-familial threat	Child Exploitation Operations Group (Chair) Adolescence Safety and Diversion Board (Chair)	Plan in place for the local approach to safeguarding children from extra-familial threat. Plan to be approved by the Safeguarding Partners.	Experiences of children and families subject to extra-familial harm	Within 2023/24 business year
Mult-agency audits	Assurance and Audit Group	Support the Multi-Agency CSR (MACSE) Hub in undertaking a new regime of audit work	N/A	Audit/s to be completed by January 2024

2024/25 work themes / topics:

- Receive assurance that approaches to safeguard children from extra-familial threat are embedded and effective, including hearing the experiences of local children and families

4. Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds

Rationale:

- The SCPs require more information about how agencies work together with children and their families to safeguard children in the context of intersectionality (the interaction of systems of inequality based on protected characteristics and other forms of discrimination).
- Learning from local reviews has identified a need to consider the role of immigration status, culture, faith, and parenting in safeguarding.
- Recognising the significant increase in Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in LLR (particularly in Leicester City) and the additional needs and risks for these children and young people.

Key Deliverable	Lead	Activity	Impact Measure	Timescale
Improved understanding of the role of the role of immigration status, culture, faith, and parenting.	Business Offices	Explore what can be accessed through the migration partnership (for example Home Office briefings) to support practitioners to improve their understanding of local immigration. Share with the Multi-Agency Learning and Development Group (MALDG) for dissemination.		By the end of Q3 of 2023/24
	Multi-Agency Learning and Development Group (MALDG)	Disseminate information accessed through the migration partnership.		By the end of Q1 of 2024/25
		Provide multi-agency learning and development around immigration status, culture, faith, and parenting.		Ongoing throughout 2023-2025

5. Effective Safeguarding in independent and out of school settings

Rationale:

- SCP consideration of IICSA reports and local LADO and national data identify the need and opportunity for further work with religious institutions, alternative education, and other out-of-school settings to support robust safeguarding.
- Recognition of the importance to continue to engage with independent schools via the forum set up during 2022/23.
- National Child Safeguarding Practice Review [safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings](#)

Key Deliverable	Lead	Activity	Impact Measure	Timescale
Increase awareness of parents and carers of safeguarding their children when involved in small organisations	Out of School Settings Task and Finish Group (Chair)	Develop and promote information leaflets for parents	Awareness level of parents and carers	August 2023
Resources and training targeted at small and community organisations including faith groups	Out of School Settings Task and Finish Group (Chair)	Hold an event for small and community organisations including faith groups	Feedback from delegates	October November 2023
Independent Schools Forum	LLR SCPs Business Managers	Continue to host the independent schools forum, expanding membership across LLR	Feedback provided by schools involved	Ongoing with initial report to be provided to the November 2023 PDG meeting

2024/25 work themes / topics:

- Obtain ongoing assurance / undertake relevant workstreams as identified in relation to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings'

5. Transitional Safeguarding

Rationale:

- Learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

Key Deliverable	Lead	Activity	Impact Measure	Timescale
Work with the local Safeguarding Adults Boards to	Transitional Safeguarding Task and Finish Group	Consider the following: Are you confident that we are managing	N/A as the action is itself	March 2024

<p>seek assurance that Transitional Safeguarding is being managed appropriately across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland</p>		<p>transitional safeguarding in the most appropriately effective way? What assurance do we have of this?</p>	<p>measuring impact</p>	
<p>2024/25 work themes / topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional work as identified by the task and finish group. 				