

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

22 JANUARY 2013

HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT & SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LR LSCB) Annual Report is to provide an outline of the LSCB's main activity and achievements during 2010-11, provide an assessment of the effectiveness of safeguarding activity in Leicestershire and Rutland and to provide the general public, practitioners and main stakeholders with an overview of how well children in Leicestershire and Rutland are protected.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report is to set out the work that has been undertaken in 2011/12, to highlight the achievements and progress made against the Business Plan for the year, to outline other activities that have flowed from national and local developments within the year and to identify the remaining challenges and work priorities for the future
- 1.3 Members are asked to comment and approve both Annual reports.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members comment and approve the LSCB annual report.**
- 2.2 **Members comment and approve the SAB Annual Report**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 LR LSCB Annual report

Local safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB's) were made statute by the Children Act 2004. The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children in that locality, and ensuring effectiveness of what they do.

- 3.2 This is the third annual report of the LSCB and is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.2.1 Progress against the Business Plan 2011/12 objectives are within the report and it is the key document to secure cross-agency focus on those objectives that emerged from the annual safeguarding needs analysis.

With regard to Business Plan priorities and the recommendations of the Flack Review key successes identified include:

- Closer alignment of the LSCB and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) together with the merging of the Executive and some Subgroups within the Governance structures
- The introduction of a new multi-agency performance scorecard framed around 'the child's journey'

- The introduction of a risk register
- Implementation of a new training strategy in collaboration with the Children's Commissioning Board / Children's Trust
- The introduction of the 'Leicestershire and Rutland Learning Bulletin' to better disseminate learning and key actions for improvement arising from Serious Case Reviews and SILPs
- A Section 11 audit that has been followed up with individual agency action plans to improve levels of compliance against core standards
- The development of a multi-agency auditing programme to extend qualitative evaluation of safeguarding practice beyond Section 11 audits
- The 'Safeguarding Babies Conference' that launched work to address recommendations in SCRs in the previous year and a range of operational initiatives in relation to this priority
- A focus on 'Think Family' supported by closer alignment with the Safeguarding Adults Board and scrutiny and challenge of the 'Leicestershire Supporting Families' and LPT 'Think Family' initiatives
- Development of the website and an increase in the number of hits on the site

3.3 The report also identifies five key priorities for the next 3 years:

- Improving the effectiveness of the Board
- Improving the operational effectiveness of both individual agencies and partnership working in support of the safeguarding and welfare of children, young people, adults and communities;
- Further strengthening quality assurance and performance management
- Improving communication and engagement
- Developing cross-cutting approaches to support families and communities with complex needs.

3.4 SAB Annual Report

The Law Commission published in May 2011 the final results of its comprehensive review of adult social care legislation. This recommended a number of significant changes to the legal framework for protecting adults at risk/vulnerable adults, which are expected to be reflected in the forthcoming Care and Support Bill. The Commission recommended that new legislation should:

- Clearly indicate that local social services authorities have the lead co-ordinating responsibility for safeguarding;
- Place a duty on local social services authorities to investigate adult protection cases, or cause an investigation to be made by other agencies, in individual cases;
- Place adult safeguarding boards on a statutory footing

3.5 The new SAB Business Plan, published in April 2012, is the first integrated Business Plan produced by the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Boards for children and adults and it aims to support our joint commitment to keeping our communities safe.

It sets out the strategic priorities for the two Boards over the next three years and is set out in full in an Appendix of the Annual Report (Appendix B)

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 To respond to requests from the LR LSCB and SAB as and when they arise

5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 No direct financial implications have been identified in this report.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The legal obligation concerning children and young people is underpinned by The Children Act 1989, Section 17 and 47 and Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

Children Act 1989

Section 17 (1989) States that local authorities have a duty to safeguard the welfare of children who are in need. Local authorities must provide a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs.

Section 47 (1989) places a duty on local authority social services departments to make inquiries where they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child in their area is likely to be or is suffering significant harm.

Children Act 2004

The Children Act 2004 legislates for children in England and Wales and underpins a national framework of change for children and young people. Its implementation needs to be part of a wider process of change for children focusing on the five elements in the Every Child Matters framework.

Section 10 establishes a duty on local authorities to make suitable arrangements to promote co-operation between agencies in order to promote children's well being.

Section 11 Creates a duty for key agencies who work with children to put in place arrangements to make sure they take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

It is likely that we will need to add to the activities that are set out in the current plan particularly in light of the likely changes to Safeguarding Adult Board statutory status.

There are no other legal implications directly arising from this report.

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 No direct links to community safety in the recommendations, however, clear links to actions within the report and action plan.

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 No direct links identified to the recommendations in this report..

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 The risks are considered in the table below:

Probability



Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D			1	
Very Low E				
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

→
Impact

Risk No.	Description
1	MBC is not being fully compliant in regards to responses and cooperation to incidents involving children and vulnerable adults.
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATIONS

11.1 The priorities the LRLSCB and SAB is made up of a number of partners who have all contributed into the development of the report and the emerging priorities.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are affected.

Contact Officer: H Rai

Date: 2 January 2013

Appendices: A – LR LSCB Annual Report 2011/12
B – SAB Annual report 2011/12

Background Papers: None

Reference: X: C'tees, Council & Sub-C'tees/CSA/220113/HR – LR LSCB Annual report