

# Harborough District Council



## Report to Council 27 February 2023

<b>Report Number:</b>	10c
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership</b>
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Key Decision:</b>	N/A
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<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Dann, Corporate & Regulatory Services
<b>Appendices:</b>	1 - Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021/22

### Summary

- i. Harborough District Council is a partner of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP). Best practice guidance from the Local Government Association (LGA) is that one of the key 'must know' questions for District Council Members is to ask 'if the council formally consider the annual report of the safeguarding children partnership, and does this identify issues for your council area?' Therefore, it is recommended that the annual report of the Safeguarding Children Partnership is formally discussed at Council meetings.

### Recommendations

**Council is requested to:**

- 1. Receive and consider the annual report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership.**

### Reasons for Recommendations

- ii. Harborough District Council has a legal duty to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk of harm. Safeguarding, in its broadest sense, is defined as 'to protect from harm'. The council works with the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership, primarily, as well as other agencies, to ensure safeguarding is embedded within all its services throughout the organisation. The council also has a duty to ensure that all elected Members comply with

Safeguarding Policies and consider the welfare of all children, young people, and adults at risk of harm whilst providing services and functions.

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Council is requested to formally consider the annual report of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership and identify whether there are any issues for the Harborough District.
- 1.2 Discussing the annual reports at a meeting of Council makes sure all Members are informed of safeguarding matters relevant to the district whilst also promoting and increasing safeguarding awareness.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Safeguarding Children Partnership produce annual reports outlining what work has been undertaken during the year and what priorities have been set for the following 12 months.

## **3. Details**

- 3.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership report covers the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and highlights that the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to impact on families and children. More recently additional pressures have emerged such as the increased cost of living. The partnership have sought to work together and support each other across the system and at all levels of organisations to continue to identify and respond effectively to children in need of safeguarding.
- 3.2 The Safeguarding Children Partnership has set the following priorities for 2022/23 onwards:
  - Safeguarding babies
  - Child mental health and emotional wellbeing
  - Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds
  - Harm outside of the home
  - Safeguarding in independent and out of school settings
- 3.3 Safeguarding Officers at the council made 11 child referrals during the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, not all were reported to Children's Social Care some were reported to the Police or other relevant agencies. The main concerns within the district were child neglect, exploitation, and domestic abuse. Safeguarding Officers work in partnership with agencies to ensure that best practice and guidance is adhered to, and referrals are not closed without a suitable outcome being achieved.

## 4. Implications

### Corporate Priorities

4.1 This report promotes the following corporate priorities:

CO6: Our residents will be able to live more independent lives, with the right support and guidance in place to allow this

CO10: Physical and mental health needs will be addressed to prevent crisis and support those that are the most vulnerable in our communities, including those that face loneliness, food, and fuel poverty and those that need support to remain in their own homes

### Financial

4.2 There are no financial implications as this is resourced through existing budgets. The council's Equality and Diversity Officer attends Children Partnerships' training and events to ensure that latest guidance or procedural updates are circulated accordingly.

### Legal

4.3 The council has a legal duty to protect children and young people at risk of harm.

### Policy

4.4 Safeguarding policies are in place for adults and for children and young people which align with the Safeguarding Children Partnership. They are reviewed every two years to ensure that they are reflective of current concerns.

### Environment

4.5 No direct impact

### Risk Management

4.6 Safeguarding is a mandatory responsibility of the council and the failure of councillors to effectively understand, monitor and promote safeguarding issues could result in harm to residents or service users.

### Equalities Impact

4.7 There are no equality implications mentioned within the annual reports, but the importance of considering equality issues in conjunction with safeguarding is extremely important to ensure that everyone receives the assistance they need to protect them from harm. All staff at Harborough District Council receive Equality and Diversity as well as Safeguarding training and Equality Analyses are completed during each safeguarding policy review to ensure that gaps are identified, and procedures can be amended as necessary.

### Data Protection

4.8 The annual reports are publicly available and contain no personal data therefore there is no data protection implication.



## **Consultation**

4.9 The board and partnership completed their own consultation.

## **5. Alternative Options Considered**

5.1 There are no options to consider within this report.

## **6. Background papers**

[Harborough District Council Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2021](#)