

Harborough District Council



Report to Communities Scrutiny Panel Meeting of 21st March 2024

Title:	Annual Reports of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	No
Report Author:	Equality and Diversity Officer, Julie Clarke
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio: Wellbeing, Councillor Jim Knight
Appendices:	A. Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23 B. Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022/23

Summary

- i. Harborough District Council is a partner of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) and the 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 adults board, and does this identify issues for your council area?' Therefore, it is recommended that the annual reports of the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership are formally discussed at Council meetings.

Recommendations

1. Council Members note the annual reports of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership to increase awareness of issues relevant to the district.

Reasons for Recommendations

- i. 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'.
- ii. 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.

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| iii. The Council has a duty to ensure that all elected Members comply with our Council's Safeguarding Policies and that they consider the welfare of all children, young people, and adults at risk of harm whilst undertaking all services and functions. |
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. By noting the annual reports of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Children Partnership at Council meetings will assist in making sure all Members are informed of safeguarding matters relevant to the district whilst also promoting and increasing safeguarding awareness.

2. Background

- 1.2. The Safeguarding Adults Board and 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.
- 1.3. These reports are shared with all district/borough councils for information purposes and for noting.

3. Details

- 1.4. The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board report covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The report highlights that Leicestershire has seen a drop in safeguarding concerns and enquiries over the last year with 4035 individuals involved in safeguarding enquiries or alerts. There has been a drop in the category of physical abuse and an increase in neglect. The highest category of abuse for adults in Leicestershire for 2022/23 was neglect and acts of omission.
- 1.5. The Safeguarding Adults Board has set three priorities within its 2023/25 business plan:
- Self-Neglect
 - Mental Capacity Act/Assessments
 - Domestic Abuse
- 1.6. Designated Safeguarding Officers at Harborough District Council made 103 adult referrals during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Not all referrals were reported to Adult Social Care; some were reported to the Police or other relevant agencies. The three main concerns raised within the Harborough district were in relation to mental health crisis, care needs and domestic abuse.
- 1.7. The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership report covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. During this period the partnership carried out three rapid reviews following serious incident notifications and were able to identify learning to improve safeguarding systems. In line with the national picture, children under 12 months of age accounted for the majority of notifications, which is why the partnership have continued their business priority around safeguarding babies this year.

- 1.8. The Safeguarding Children Partnership has set the following priorities for 2023/25:
- Safeguarding babies
 - Child mental health, emotional wellbeing, and safeguarding
 - Keeping adolescents safe/supporting safe adolescents
 - Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds
 - Effective safeguarding in independent and out of school settings
- 1.9. Designated Safeguarding Officers at Harborough District Council made 27 child referrals during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Not all referrals were reported to Children's Social Care; some were reported to the Police or other relevant agencies. The main concerns within the Harborough district were child neglect, domestic abuse, and homelessness.

4. Implications of Decisions

Corporate Priorities

- 2.1. CO6: Our residents will be able to live more independent lives, with the right support and guidance in place to allow this
- 2.2. 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

Consultation

- 2.3. The board and partnership completed their own consultation.

Financial

- 2.4. There are no financial implications as this is resourced through existing budgets. Harborough District Council Equality and Diversity Officer attends Adults Board and Children Partnerships' training and events to ensure that latest guidance or procedural updates are circulated accordingly.

Legal

- 2.5. As a local authority we have a legal duty to protect children, young people, and adults at risk of harm.

Environmental Implications

- 2.6. No direct impact.

Risk Management

- 2.7. Safeguarding is a mandatory responsibility of the Council and the failure of Members to effectively understand, monitor and promote safeguarding issues could result in harm to residents or service users.

Equalities Impact

- 2.8. 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.
- 2.9. All staff and Members at Harborough District Council receive Equality and Diversity as well as Safeguarding training. Equality Analyses are completed during each of the safeguarding policy reviews to ensure that gaps are identified, and procedures can be amended as necessary.

Data Protection

2.10. The annual reports are publicly available so there are no data protection implications.

5. Alternative Options Considered

3.1. There are no options to consider within this report.

6. Recommendation

4.1. Members to note the annual reports of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership to increase awareness of issues relevant to the district.

7. Background papers

5.1. [Harborough District Council Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2021](#)

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