

## Welcome to the 2nd issue of the newsletter

As Independent Chair of the LSCB, I welcome the findings of the [Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers in Leicester](#). The report, published in September 2017, shows that there has been significant improvement in the effectiveness of the local authority work with children and families. It rightly recognises the commitment of the wider workforce and partnership agencies to ensure children are kept safe and the strong leadership that sits behind the improvements. However, there is still much to do, and the LSCB will continue to hold agencies to account to ensure that the improvements are sustained and built upon.

The last few months have been busy with the LSCB driving forward with the improvements across the partnership of agencies working with children and families. We particularly welcome the challenge and support of our lay members. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and do get in touch if you have something we should hear more about.

### This issue includes:

- LSCB Lay Members
- Young advisors/Shadow Board
- Making MINDS Matter Conference
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
- LSCB Multi-Agency Emotional Wellbeing and CAMHS Involvement Audit
- LLR LSCB Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures
- LLR LSCB Safeguarding Learning Event
- LLR LSCB Safeguarding Training and Learning – Competency Framework
- Further Information and Resources

---

*“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”*

*“Effective Safeguarding systems are child  
centered”*

*Working Together 2015*

---

## LSCB Lay members – who are we and what do we do?

*“I am one of two local community Lay Members to the Leicester City LSCB. I am a staunch advocate for improving the lives and educational attainment of Looked After Children and Young People, which is a major area of need in safeguarding. I know this as I am a Care Leaver myself. This is one of the reasons why I wanted to become a member of the board, but also to give back to my local community which needs many improvements to make sure services are safeguarding ALL the children of Leicester City to the best of their abilities. Having a fit for purpose LSCB is essential for the protection and wellbeing of so many vulnerable children and young people in our society.*

*Leicester is my home, and I am extremely passionate about safeguarding all the children within the vibrant mix of cultures that also call it their home. Although living in a city with such a rich variation of people has so many benefits for the community – it can also have its complications when it comes to safeguarding all the children with all the differences in cultural needs.*

*There is still much work to be done by myself and the LSCB within Leicester City but from the positive change that I have seen and that has been done within the short time I have been a member, it gives me great hope for the futures of our most vulnerable and the effectiveness of the Leicester City Board”.*

*“I am the second of the two lay members appointed in August 2016. One of the reasons that I applied for this role was that I wanted to consolidate my professional knowledge and experience as a children and families social worker and as a community member. As a community member I felt that I wanted to give a representation and voice of the wider local community and especially hard to reach communities, to ensure that work of the LSCB is meaningful and that there is a strong engagement. The second being, that I feel passionate that all organisations/agencies who have contact with children/ young people and their families, work & communicate together to safeguard all the children that are in their care/contact (despite their Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Nationality, Gender, Ability or Sexual Orientation). This is so that there are no missed opportunities and that children living in Leicester have the optimum opportunity to be protected and safeguarded. As a social worker this is something very close to my heart.*

*One of the highlights for me during this past year has to be to be visiting the CSE Hub. I had the opportunity to sit in a meeting where CSE cases were discussed and this gave me an overview and opportunity to see at first-hand how universal services are effectively working together where children are at risk to CSE and how agencies/ professionals are working together to protect these children from further risk.*

*When I commenced my role it's fair to say that the Board was not in a “good place” with some improvements that needed to be made. Nevertheless, I can confidently say now that a year with positive progress and the hard work from the Board members and all partnership agencies under the direction and guidance of the chair we are on the road to recovery. This has also been supported by recruiting the Board manager as Beverly Czyz is able to bring in stability, experience and direction moving forward into the future with a robust the business plan.*

*Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Leicester Safeguarding Children Board and partner agencies for the ongoing commitment, hard work and dedication to safeguarding Children in Leicester”.*

## Young advisors/Shadow Board – what have we done?

The Young Advisors Leicester are constantly busy over the summer months and this summer, we have entered into an even more interesting phase. We are currently working on a commission with Healthwatch Leicester and Leicester City Council regarding the way in which young people are transitioned from Paediatric services to Adult services. The commission has been really interesting and fun to work on as we have been able to consult a variety of young people on health issues and put forward suggestions to help improve the process for young people in the future.

Apart from our current commissions, we at Young Advisors Leicester will be going under a whole rebranding process in the next two

months. We will be called Leicester Young Consultants and will be operating independent to any other third party organisations in the UK. This is a really exciting move for us as we are looking to gain more autonomy over our work, help more and more young people and increase the reach of our work.

We are very thankful for all the help we have received from our various partners over the last few years and are hoping to continue all existing partnerships and commissions as we enter a new phase in our journey. We are still the same team, based in the same place, running at the same efficiency and hopefully we can cater the needs of our clients much better.

## 'Making MINDS Matter' Conference, organised by young people for young people – do you know about this?

The Young Advisors Leicester in partnership with Leicester Safeguarding Children Board and time to change Leicester have organised the 'Making MINDS Matter' conference, which is taking place on 8th November 2017.

The conference will explore the emotional health and wellbeing needs of the City's pupils, and will invite pupils to discuss what impacts on the emotional wellbeing of pupils, bullying and its consequences, and how we can create MINDFUL schools. The event will end with the creation of a MINDFUL school pledge that we invite all delegates to take back to their settings and implement.

Places are offered to schools on a first come first served basis, it is recommended that school council members might be best suited for this opportunity. Each school has a maximum of 3 spaces.

Registration closes on Wednesday 25th October 2017. Please confirm your places by emailing: [bernadette.killeen@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:bernadette.killeen@leicester.gov.uk)

Conference details are as follows:

Venue:	City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ
Date:	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Time	9.45am-2.35pm

## Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse – what's new?

Following the introduction of a range of documents outlining national expectations, published by the Home Office in December 2015, and the new offence of Controlling and Coercive Behaviour the same month, the Queen's Speech on 21st June 2017 outlined an intention to create new legislation through a Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill. This will:

- provide a statutory definition of domestic violence and abuse;
- create an aggravated offence of domestic violence against children;
- create a Domestic Violence Commissioner;
- establish more clarity regarding how offenders are punished; and
- consolidate all civil and criminal prevention and protection orders.

A new domestic violence and abuse (DVA) executive group was established in April 2017 across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland to drive forward local improvements in a co-ordinated way. Since April, the group, has been meeting regularly and is chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Rob Nixon from Leicestershire Police. The membership of the group includes senior leaders from across the area, who will agree the next strategy and key elements for service delivery.

The DVA Operations group and the Sexual Violence Delivery Group will continue to support the Executive in transforming the strategy into operational processes and practice.



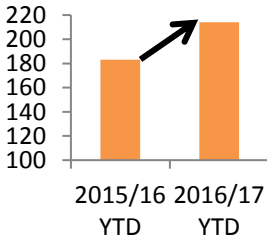
The local bid to the Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Transformation Fund 2017-2020 was successful; bringing in £600,000 to the area per annum. This fund replaces direct funding of £40,000 p.a. received from the Ministry of Justice to contribute to the funding of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors. The new local VAWG Project, led by the Police and Crime Commissioners' Office, seeks to transform the initial police response, to enhance capacity around the multi-agency response to domestic violence victims at high risk of homicide, to shape a sustainable model for the use of specialist counselling volunteers and to expand the support Black and Ethnic Minority victim-survivors receive through a community champion (enabling better access) and mentoring (enabling better long term outcomes) project. University support is a key element to the VAWG Project, so that the project board and associated services can be both responsive and maximise long term learning.

The Safer Leicester Partnership has also supported an extension of the young people's project for tailored interventions for those 10-16 year olds who have been identified as using abusive behaviour in their familial/personal relationships. This will give some additional capacity for existing staff.

The Community Safety Team has also commissioned the Young Advisors (a city council service) to work with them on a project which involves mystery shopping the local specialist services, becoming community champions and developing an engagement project for those children and young people who have experienced sexual or domestic violence.

## Local Outcomes from the City Council Commissioned Services:

	<p><b>560</b> Children and Young People in Leicester received one to one support during 2016-17, through the specialist domestic and sexual violence children, young people and families contract. Many more were identified as secondary or primary victims through the other</p>						
	<p><b>94%</b> of children and young people leaving the service said they felt safer.</p>						
	<p><b>82%</b> of children were <b>'at home'</b> when the abuse took place.</p>						
 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Referrals (YTD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>210</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Referrals (YTD)	2015/16	180	2016/17	210	<p>The number of families referred to the specialist service last year increased by <b>17%</b>.</p>
Year	Referrals (YTD)						
2015/16	180						
2016/17	210						

*"How friendly the staff are here, they had knowledge. I loved and enjoyed all my lessons. My anger has changed after the 5 sessions" (age unknown)*

*"I liked x coming and helping me out with what happened and reassuring me that u did the right thing (calling the police). The work sheets were helpful because they gave information that is useful. Good that you can ring and text at any time" (aged 15)*

*"Friendly, helpful, supportive, always available when I need someone. Referrals to appropriate people who can help me to move on. I now have a lot more confidence and feel safer" (aged 17).*

For further information on all of the **local services and details of the comprehensive training** on offer for local practitioners, please search under 'domestic violence' on the City Council website. You can also follow us on Twitter **@\_howmanytimes** and get involved in the **2017 November Campaign**.

## LSCB Multi-Agency Emotional Wellbeing and CAMHS involvement Audit – what is the key learning?

<b>Key learning is stated below</b> – the audit summary/briefing is available at <a href="http://www.lcitylscb.org/information-for-practitioners/lscb-multi-agency-audits/">http://www.lcitylscb.org/information-for-practitioners/lscb-multi-agency-audits/</a>	
<b>Aspect/theme</b>	<b>What do we need to do more of?</b>
Compliance to procedures	To work to relevant procedures <a href="#">LLR LSCB multi-agency safeguarding procedures</a> that inform our work at all times including multi-agency meetings. <i>The audits identified that staff predominantly followed procedures but not at all times. Not all relevant agencies/practitioners (including CAMHS) were invited to or involved in strategy meetings and children missing meetings. Lack of follow-up discussions when strategy meetings took place 'out-of-hours'</i>
Recording full and accurate demographic details	To make sure that full and accurate details of child/family members are recorded. <i>The audit identified recording of ethnic background (in 1 case) could have helped inform whether the support required and safety planning would meet child's needs and achieve the intended outcomes. In another case there was no evidence whether there was consideration of the mother's ability to understand a letter regarding case closure could have been understood by her prior to the letter being sent.</i>
Voice of the Child	To understand and take into the child's lived experience which should be informed by increased professional curiosity and consideration of diversity and factors that could impact on their emotional wellbeing and mental health. <i>The audit identified a lack of professional curiosity, knowledge and understanding of key aspects such diversity (ethnicity, faith, sexuality, etc.) and the cultural/traditional aspects within the family where conflict between the parents (mothers) and the child's expectations impacted on the emotional wellbeing of the child. A lack of evidence of whether terms such as 'parents believed to be spiritual' were explored and considered by practitioners when identifying risks, support and safety planning for the child - suggesting a need for staff awareness around this issue. A focus on the dominant presenting issue of mental health/autism resulting in factors such as 'grooming'/CSE, Domestic Violence, being less visible and missed in the overall identification and analysis of risks and safeguarding planning for the child.</i>
Thresholds	To continue to apply thresholds appropriately when making referring to Children Social Care and to CAMHS. Responses from both of these services need to continue to be appropriate and timely. We need to record actions identified and taken. <i>In some cases there was no record of actions to make a referral to Children Social Care having been actioned and no record of the referrals being received by Children Social Care resulting in these children not being known to them.</i>
Assessments and Plans	To make sure that assessments are timely, robust and informed by robust risk assessments, relevant tools and research, and information/involvement from relevant partner agencies including CAMHS. Chronologies need to be robust and shared with partners. Plans need to be SMART and consider other factors including CSE that co-exist with mental issues, and Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) need to be evident in records and be considered in safeguarding planning. <i>The audit found that lack of consideration of: '...All issues particularly where mental health issues co-exist with a number of other factors such as religion, sexuality, culture and the use of research tools and guidance. Evidence of more professional curiosity also needs to be applied'. EHCP were not visible in the child's record or in safeguarding planning.</i>
Information sharing and communication	More joined-up working to consider all the information known by partner agencies for a fuller picture of the issues affecting and impacting on the child for a more robust and coordinated approach to considering risk posed and safety planning. Share information on grooming, CSE, Domestic Abuse, sexuality, religion/faith/belief, traditional practices, etc. Ensure that there is multi-agency contingency planning for young people reaching 18 years of age prior to withdrawal of services. <i>The audit identified that there was information sharing and communication between agencies and improved communication between UHL, CAMHS and LPT. However more joined up working is needed to share information held by agencies to inform safeguarding planning.</i>

## LLR Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures – did you know these have been updated?

The LLR multi-agency safeguarding procedures have been updated and include the following new chapters:

- Good Practice Supporting the Voice of the Child
- Dangerous Dogs and Safeguarding Children
- Modern Slavery

The manual includes a [quick guide](#) section which is useful to find out about how to use the manual, key features, information on amended chapters and archived procedures.

The procedures are available at <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>

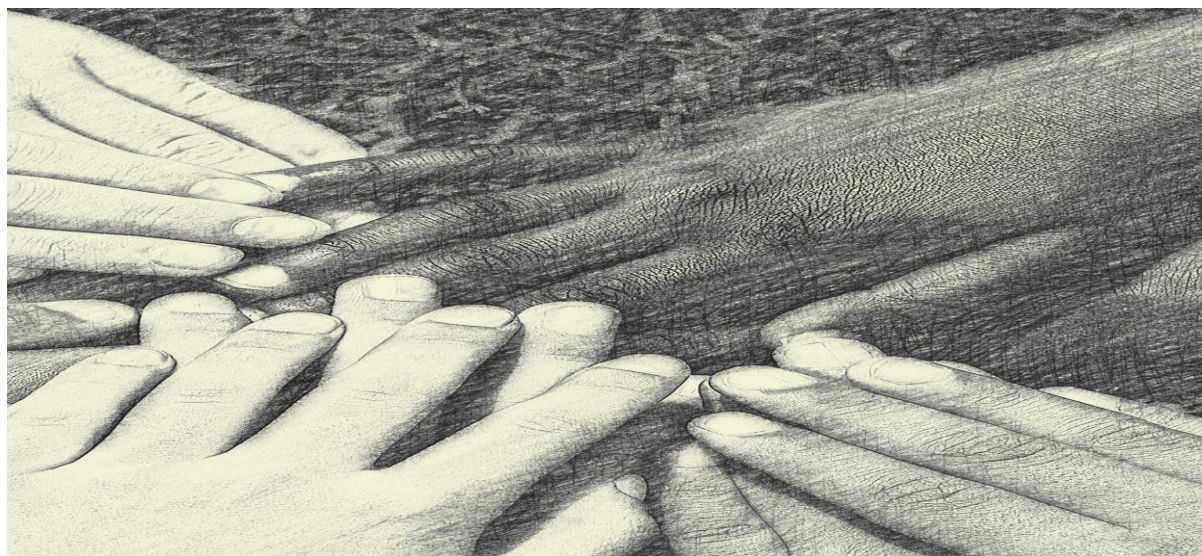
## LLR LSCB Safeguarding Learning Event – have you booked your place?

On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the LLR LSCB Safeguarding Learning Event is taking place for staff ranging from strategic leads to frontline practitioners working with children, young people and families across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The sessions are also relevant to adult practitioners who work with adults/families where there are children and young people. The following topics will be covered in each session:

- Learning from reviews
- Update on the LLR LSCB neglect toolkit
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Date:	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Venue:	City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ
Morning session:	9.00am-12.15pm
Afternoon session:	13.30-16.45

Places can be booked through Children’s Workforce Matters by following this [link](#).



## LLR LSCB Safeguarding Training and Learning Competency Framework – are you using it?

The Safeguarding Competency Framework is a tool to evidence continuous learning in regard to safeguarding as part of the supervision process. It is a tool to support competent knowledge, skills and confidence in terms of understanding safeguarding, keeping up to date with recurring themes and changes to procedures, in line with supporting best practice.

Guidance regarding the Safeguarding Competency Framework, including the safeguarding competency group you are in and access to the relevant paperwork can be found at the following link: [<http://lrsb.org.uk/competency-framework-overview>]

Training is one of the ways to support safeguarding competencies as safeguarding competencies are listed within all inter-agency safeguarding training descriptions. Information on inter-agency safeguarding training coordinated by Children’s Workforce Matters can be found at: Inter-agency safeguarding training <http://www.childrensworkforcematters.org.uk/safeguarding-training>

Other ways of supporting the completion of the Safeguarding Competency Framework are:

- Group training (single agency, multi-agency, joint courses - in house or external provider)
- Practice based workshops (single, joint and multi-agency)
- E-Learning/workbooks, use of articles –self-directed learning, distance learning
- Mentoring, shadowing, reflective supervision
- Conferences, LSCB briefings/Serious Case Review briefings
- Formal education/qualification pathway
- Peer reviews, conferences
- Learning/knowledge from previous qualifications
- Learning from local safeguarding newsletters
- Learning from practice/experience





## Further Information/Resources

**Kayleigh's Love Story** – an update on the activity taking place subsequent to the publication of Kayleigh's Love story is available [here](#).

**Action for Children** - Research, resources and information

**Barnardo's** - Research and information including fact sheets  
[Sign up](#) for the regular e-newsletter:

**Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Boards' Procedures** (staff can register to be alerted on updates)

**National Children's Bureau** (NCB) - Policy, research and information

**National Working Group Network** (NWG) – Tackling child sexual exploitation

**National Referral Mechanism** (NRM) - The Government's National Referral Mechanism guidance and referral forms can be accessed at the link above. The referral and assessment forms

should be used to report potential victims of human trafficking

**NSPCC** – Information, research, briefings and resources including the [National Repository of published Serious Case Reviews](#)

**Office of the Children's Commissioner for England** - Information, briefings and research on issues affecting children and young people, and includes the final report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's *Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups* (November 2013)

**Research in Practice** - Research, information and resources to support evidence informed practice (Leicester City Council employees can register using their work email address)

**Safeguarding in Education** – This page is under development and will include further information in due course.

## Further Information about the LSCB

Information about the LSCB including the Board, sub-groups, information for children & young people, parents & carers and professionals, including news, procedures and useful links can be found the LSCB [website](#).

### Leicester Safeguarding Children Board

Bosworth House

9-15 Princess Road West

Leicester City Council LE1 6TH

LSCB Office: 01164546520

Office Email: [lcitylscb@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:lcitylscb@leicester.gov.uk)

Secure Email: [lcitylscb@leicester.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:lcitylscb@leicester.gcsx.gov.uk)