

## LLR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIPS BUSINESS PLAN APRIL 2021 to MARCH 2022 (v1.0)

This plan outlines the priorities of the Leicestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Board and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership for 2021-2022. In addition to the priorities identified for this year the Partnership will continue to operate business as usual to improve safeguarding of children and meet its statutory obligations.

**Cross Cutting Shared Priority** – Understanding and responding to the impact of Covid-19 on Safeguarding adults and children

***This is a joint priority with the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards***

Rationale:

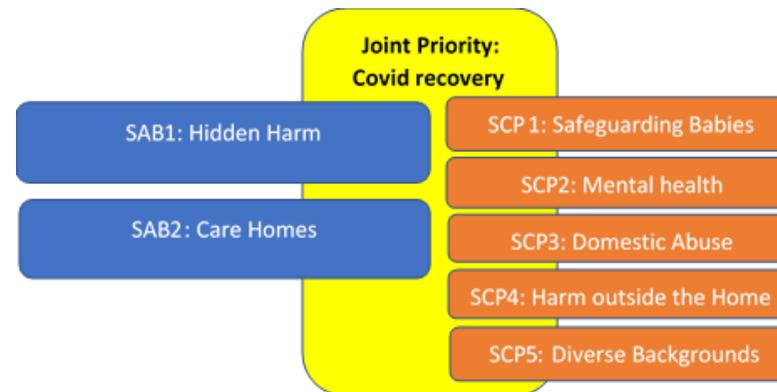
- Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on children and on adults with care and support needs in how they live their lives, their support structures and services in place for them.
- The Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards have been monitoring and responding to safeguarding changes through the past year. During 2021/22 we expect to move further into recovery from Covid-19.

Outcome statement

- Safeguarding approaches are effective in recovery from Covid-19 and informed by learning from the pandemic.

In order to work across the SCPs and SABs to understand the impact of Covid upon our workforce, and those we work to safeguard, and to support effective recovery the SABs and SCPs will meet in the second half of the year to collate and review learning and assurance related to safeguarding and the Covid-19 response and recovery and agree joint approaches going forward.

In addition within our thematic SCP and SAB priorities we will consider the impact of Covid and Covid recovery and respond to it



## 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 have 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.
- Covid-19 response has affected services for expectant and new mothers, and has been seen to cause additional stress in family environments, which can increase risk factors

### Outcome statements

- The partnership is assured that multi-agency working with families to safeguard babies is effective.

Key Deliverables	Lead	Other partnerships involved	Activity	Timescale
1. Robust procedures for safeguarding babies	Chair of Policy and Procedures group		Consider whether further work on procedures for safeguarding babies required from current reviews. (reviewing pre-birth procedure – including work with males, looking to add ICON and safe sleeping into Thresholds document, Neglect toolkit being tweaked with references to ICON and safe sleeping as well)	Sept 2021
2. Awareness raising to support the safety of babies	Business Offices	ICON Steering Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public campaign</li> <li>• Resources for practitioners</li> <li>• Support the ICON (crying babies) project rollout</li> <li>• MALDG to consider impact of work to date re: SUDI and review awareness raising and training as required.</li> </ul>	Oct 2021 Oct 2021 Mar 2022 Jun 2021
3. Respond to learning from National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews regarding infants under 1 and Sudden Unexplained Death of Infants (SUDI)	Chair of Case Review Groups, Chair of Planning and Delivery Group & Chair of MALDG		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate learning from review in work to safeguarding babies.</li> <li>• MALDG training group to identify emerging training needs, eg re: fathers/males and adapt training and training plan in response to findings.</li> </ul>	Jun 2021  Aug 2021

## 2. Child Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

### Rationale:

- Previous 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
  - Young people report mental health support needs not always well understood by schools (being addressed by Welfare Education Return training)
  - Follow up to 2021 assurance work regarding safeguarding and CAMHS waiting lists
- Young people tell us that effective mental health support remains a high priority for them.
- Surveys and cases suggest ongoing Covid restrictions are having an impact on mental health of children and young people.
- There is ongoing work re: design of services and pathways for child mental health that will link with safeguarding.

### What will success look like?

- The partnership is assured that mental health and safeguarding are effectively addressed together

Key Deliverables	Lead	Other partnerships involved	Activity	Timescale
1. Receive assurance that mental health and safeguarding are effectively addressed together locally.	Chair of Planning and Delivery Group & Independent Advisor  Chair of Assurance and Audit Group	Design Group  Education groups in Local Authority areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive report from 'Design group' regarding progress on work on CMH pathways including:-                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how safeguarding of young people with complex needs is considered in this work</li> <li>• how the voice and lived experience of children and young people is being considered in shaping this work.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Set plan for further assurance work involving Independent Advisor, Children and Families. Including assurance on joint working and breadth of understanding of mental health in schools (eg Welfare Education Return roll out)</li> <li>• Take forward actions identified in response to audit of safeguarding and CAMHS waiting list (completed March 2021)</li> </ul>	June 2021  Dec 2021  Mar 2022
2. Tools and guidance to support good mental health and safeguarding of children	Chair of Procedures Group, Chair of MA Learning and Development Group & Business Offices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise and promote practice guidance on suicide and self-harm.</li> <li>• Promote national Psychological First Aid training including Was Not Heard film.</li> </ul>	Jun 2021  Apr 2021

### 3. Domestic Abuse and Child Safeguarding

Rationale:

- There is outstanding development and assurance work regarding previous priorities around Domestic Abuse in relation to safeguarding children.
- Domestic abuse is often a key factor in complex safeguarding cases and Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Domestic abuse has been a more prominent feature in child safeguarding cases during the last year

What will success look like?

- The partnership is assured that partners are working to improve wellbeing of children affected by domestic abuse.

Key Deliverables	Lead	Other partnerships involved	Activity	Timescale
1. Receive assurance from partners and the Vulnerability Board that partnerships are responding appropriately to children living with domestic abuse.	Chair of Planning and Delivery Group & Chair of Assurance & Audit group	Vulnerability Board Community Safety Partnerships Domestic Abuse board Safeguarding Adults Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out multi-agency audit focused on domestic abuse, including understanding the impact on children.</li> <li>• Complete project hearing the voice of children in families where high-risk domestic abuse has occurred (MARAC)</li> <li>• Review findings of audit and above project and identify action.</li> <li>• Take action to follow up learning points</li> <li>• Receive a report regarding prevention of and response to domestic abuse including: Operation encompass, domestic abuse in sex and relationships training.</li> </ul>	<p>June 2021</p> <p>July 2021</p> <p>Sep 2021</p> <p>Mar 2022</p> <p>Dec 2021</p>

#### 4. Harm outside the Home / Contextual safeguarding

##### Rationale:

- Contextual safeguarding approach agreed as strategic approach for safeguarding children at risk from extra-familial threat/harm outside the home.
- Risks of harm from outside the home, e.g. child criminal exploitation, violence related to young people may increase or become more visible in Covid-19 recovery.
- Developing national approach regarding 'serious youth violence'

##### What will success look like?

- Clear governance and approach for safeguarding children from harm outside the home
- The partnership has assurance that the approach to safeguarding children from harm outside the home is effective.

Key Deliverables	Lead	Other partnerships involved	Activity	Timescale
1. Plan in place for the local approach to safeguarding children from extra-familial threat.	Chair of Child Exploitation Operations Group / Local Area Implementation Network (LAIN)	Vulnerability Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and progress the plan for the local approach to safeguarding children from extra-familial threat.</li> <li>• Above plan approved by the SCPs</li> <li>• Receive progress report on the plan</li> </ul>	<p>Sep 2021</p> <p>Sep 2021 Mar 2022</p>
2. Receive assurance from partners and the Vulnerability Board that partnerships are effectively safeguarding children from extra-familial threat.	Chair of Planning and Delivery Group	Vulnerability Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request and receive data and assurance updates re: work to safeguard children from extra-familial threat including how young people are involved in developing solutions.</li> <li>• Receive a report regarding local work to address serious youth violence.</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 2021</p> <p>Mar 2022</p>

## 5. Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds

### Rationale:

- The SCPs do not have information on whether the ethnic or cultural background of a child or other diversity factors have an impact on how well agencies work together with children and their families to safeguard children.

### What will success look like?

- Understand how well we work with children and families from different backgrounds
- Clear plan to improve how we work with families and young people from specific backgrounds as identified by analysis.
- Longer-term appropriate representation and reduced gap in outcomes in relation to safeguarding for children from different backgrounds

Key Deliverables	Lead	Other partnerships involved	Activity	Timescale
1. Qualitative and Quantitative analysis of how well partners work in safeguarding with children and families from different backgrounds	Chair of Planning and Delivery Group & Independent Advisor Task and Finish Group as required		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate service data from agencies</li> <li>• Seek views of children and families from diverse backgrounds</li> <li>• Analyse data and information alongside wider research</li> <li>• Understand resources in place to support staff to have knowledge and skills to respond appropriately to racism and young people's experience of racism.</li> </ul>	Jul 2021 Sep 2021  Nov 2021 Jul 2021
2. Action plan to improve practice where required	Chair of Planning and Delivery Group & Other subgroups as appropriate	Tbc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate action plan based upon analysis to embed good practice.</li> </ul>	Dec 2021
3. Plan in place to consider other areas of diversity (disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity) by March 2023.	Chair of Planning and Delivery Group		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set plan</li> <li>• Initiate work on second area in line with plan</li> </ul>	Jun 2021 Mar 2022