

# LEICESTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP BOARD

## YEARLY REPORT 2022/23

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**Leicester**

**Safeguarding Children Partnership Board**

Yearly Report

2022/23

Report prepared and published in accordance with Paragraph 42 of Working Together 2018

Report Date: June 2023

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# Foreword

In line with Working Together 2018, at least once in every 12-month period, we as Leicester's safeguarding partners, must publish a report setting out what we have done as a result of our multi-agency arrangements, including how effective our arrangements have been in practice.

This report sets out what we have done as a result of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews during 2022/23 and how we have implemented (or plan to implement) the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

We will tell you about the training that we have facilitated as a partnership and the impact of this training on outcomes for children and families in Leicester.
























The purpose of this report is to bring transparency to children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken in Leicester. We hope it achieves this for you.

**Leicester Safeguarding Partners**

# The Partnership

The shared and equal duty of Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board’s three safeguarding partners – Police, Health and Local Authority<sup>1</sup> – is to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Leicester. This includes agreeing on ways to co-ordinate safeguarding services, acting as a strategic leadership group to engage and support others, and implementing learning from local and national serious child safeguarding incidents.

Our partnership’s arrangements outline our vision “for children and young people in Leicester to be safe, well and achieve their full potential”.

LEICESTER SCP MEMBERSHIP		
Courts, Criminal Justice, and Blue Light Services	Leicestershire Police	
	National Probation Service (NPS)	
	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	
	East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)	
	Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS)	
Education	Primary Schools	
	Secondary Schools	
	Further Education Colleges	
Health	Integrated Care Board (ICB)	 
	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)	 
	University Hospitals Leicester NHS Trust (UHL)	
Local Authority	Children’s Social Care and Education	  
	Adult Social Care	
	Housing	
	Lead Members	 
	Public Health	
Other Partnerships	Child Death Overview Panel (C-DOP)	
PVI Sector	Voluntary Community Sector	

<sup>1</sup> In Leicester this is Leicestershire Police, Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board, and Leicester City Council. Each is highlighted in the table above.

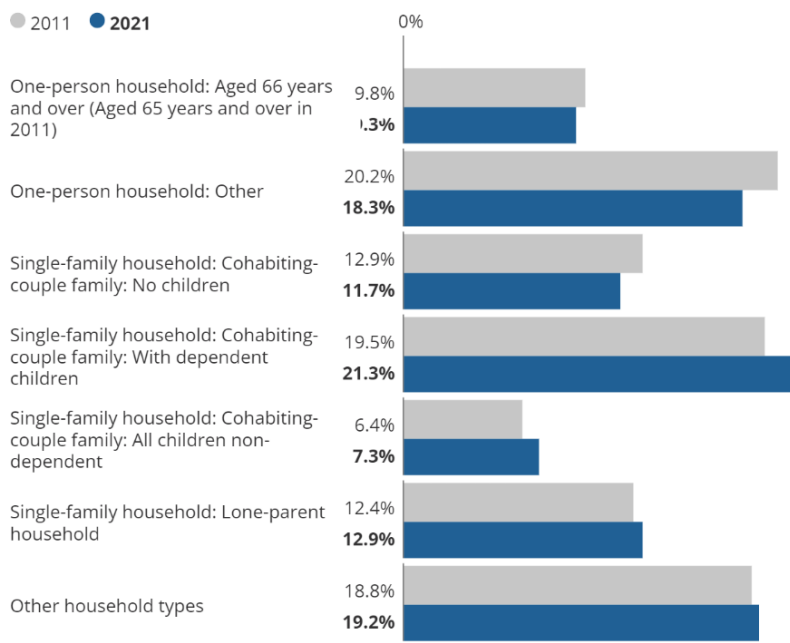
# Safeguarding Children in Leicester

During the 2021 Leicester’s population reached nearly 370,000 and Leicester was noted as the most densely populated local authority area across the East Midlands (Office of National Statistics, 2022)<sup>2</sup>. It is home to around 36 people per football pitch-sized piece of land.



The percentage of households including dependent children in Leicester rose by 1.8% from 2011 to 2021. During the same period, the percentage in the East Midlands as a whole fell by 0.9%.

Percentage of households by household composition, **Leicester**



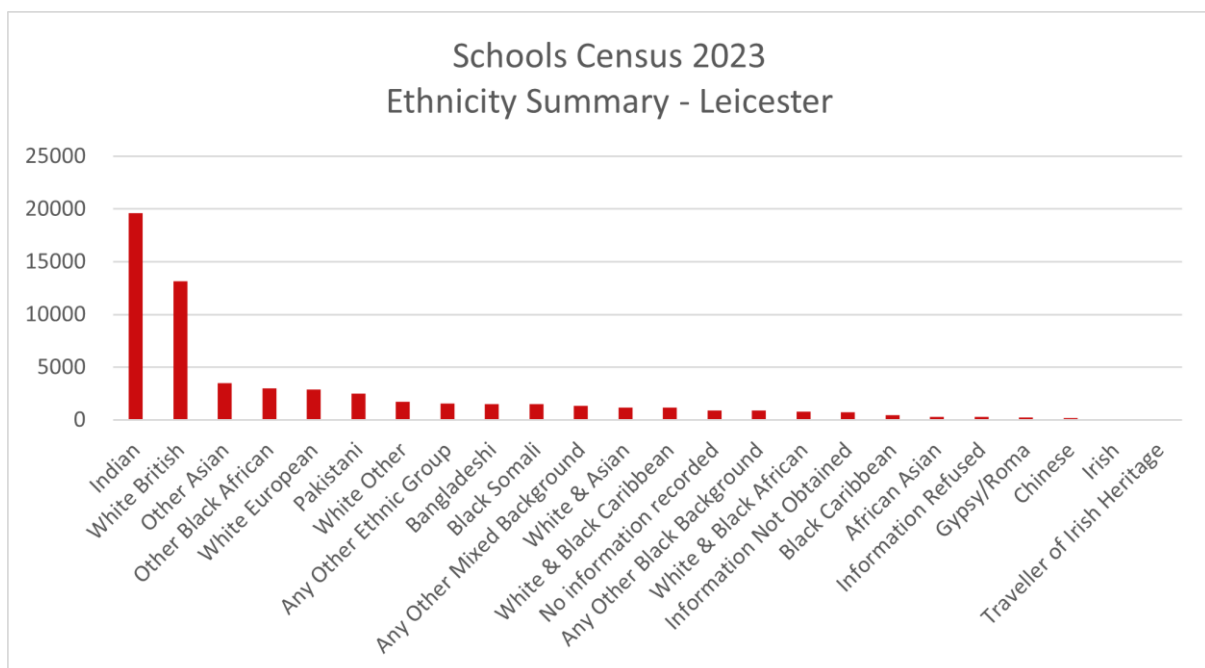
Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

<sup>2</sup> Office of National Statistics (2022) How the population changed in Leicester: Census 2021 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E06000016/>

According to the Office of National Statistics ‘In the latest census, around 213,600 Leicester residents said they were born in England. This represented 57.9% of the local population’<sup>3</sup>. The 5 most common countries of birth for the population of Leicester in 2021 were England, India, South and Eastern Africa (other than Kenya, Somalia, South Africa and Zimbabwe), Poland, and Kenya.

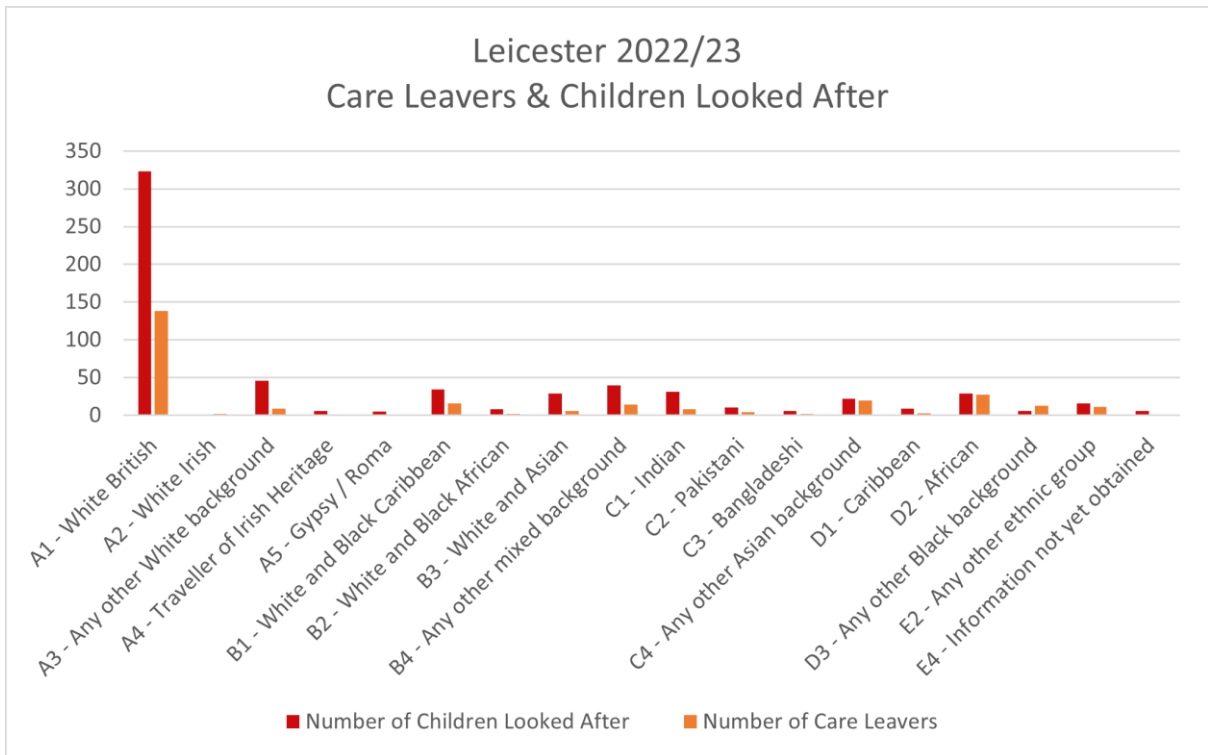
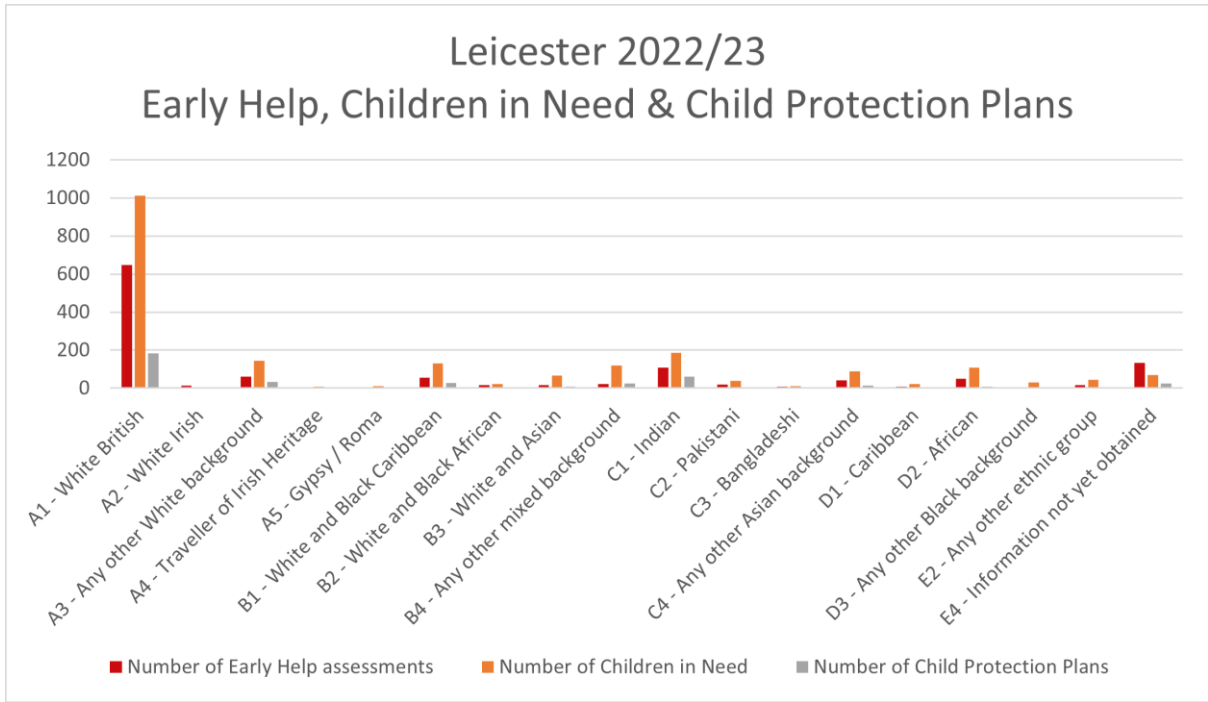
In 2021, 43.4% of usual residents in Leicester identified their ethnic group as “Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh” followed by 40.9% who identified themselves as “White”, 7.8% as “Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African”, 4.1% as “Other ethnic groups” and 3.8% as “Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups” (Office of National Statistics, 2022)<sup>4</sup>.

### Leicester’s 2022/23 Safeguarding Children Data

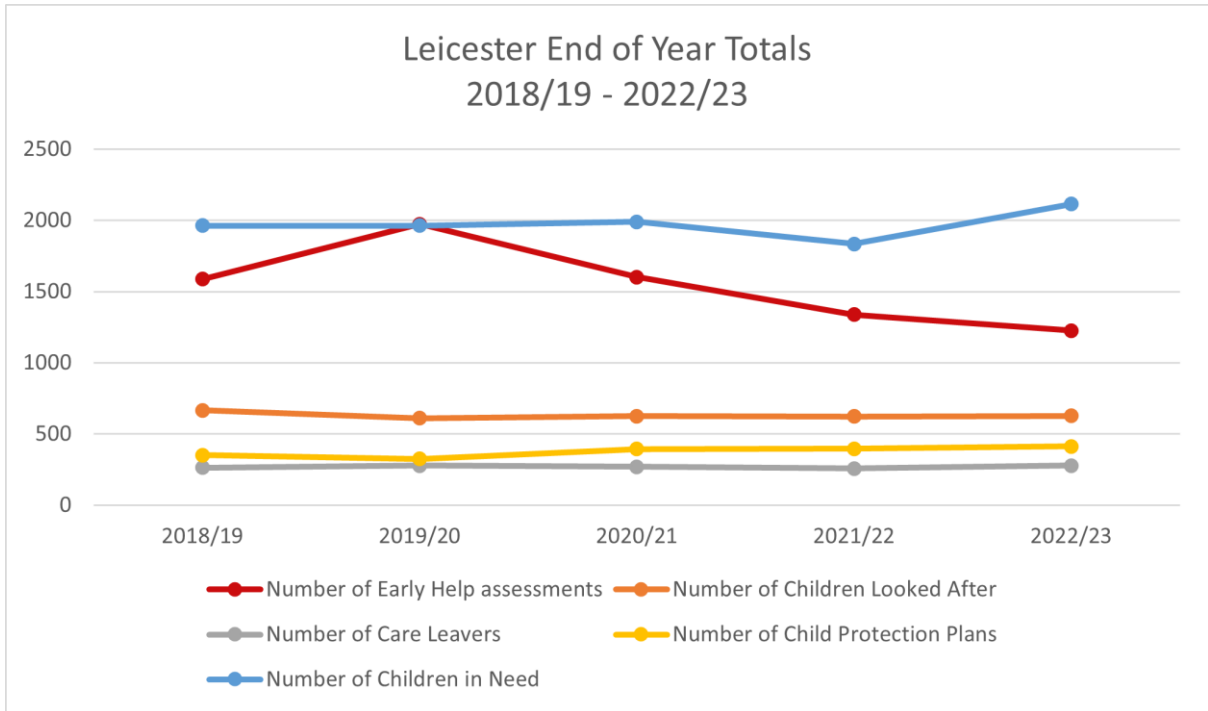


<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid







Ongoing work continues to explore, understand and address disproportionality identified.

# The Work of the Partnership

## Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures

Via the Leicester and [the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships Procedures Manual](#), the partnership has ensured that procedures are in place for multi-agency safeguarding in line with Working Together 2018. Throughout 2022/23 the following procedures were revised in response to learning from local and national reviews and assurance processes:

- Children and Young People go Missing from Home or Care
- Children and Families Moving Across Local Authority Boundaries
- Bruising, Marks, or Injury of Concern in Pre-Mobile Babies and Non-Independently Mobile Children
- Fabricated or Induced Illness
- Child Exploitation, CSE and Assessment of Risk Outside the Home (Contextual Safeguarding)
- Bullying
- Children of Parents with Learning Disabilities
- Children of Parents who Misuse Substances
- E-Safety: Children Exposed to Abuse through the Digital Media
- Gang Activity, Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Affecting Children
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Safeguarding Children Vulnerable to Violent Extremism (PREVENT)
- Underage Sexual Activity
- Agency Roles and Responsibilities
- Allegations Against Persons who Work with Children
- Domestic Abuse
- Pre-Birth and Post Birth Planning
- Self Harm and Suicidal Behaviour



Leicester and the Leicestershire and  
Rutland Safeguarding Children  
Partnerships Procedures Manual

A full list of new chapters and amendments made can be found on the [‘amendments’ page](#) of the Leicester and the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships Procedures Manual.

## Training

A 'building confidence in practice' resource on professional curiosity was developed by the



- What is it?
- Why is it important?
- Exercise in reflection....
- Top Tips
- Understanding what it looks like in practice
- How to Refer, Procedures & Resources

Multi-Agency Learning and Development Group (MALDG) in partnership with Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards and was [published](#) in March 2022. The resource pack aims to

address Professional Curiosity so that practitioners can fully understand what it is and how to develop their skills when they are working with people whether they are children or adults. The expectation is that practitioners and managers will use it in team meetings, as part of a group/individual supervision, and for their own development. It has not been possible to determine how many times this resource has been accessed, and therefore the impact, but this is something that the LSCPB is working on with the use of a learning management system. Now this local resource is in place, training for managers around supporting professional curiosity in staff is in the process of being developed. This training will be in the form of videos that will then be promoted to managers across the partnership.

A regular trainers' network has been facilitated, weekly briefings and regular Safeguarding Matters [newsletters](#) have been published, and the [LLR SCP's YouTube channel](#) has continued to develop.

This year, Safeguarding Matters Live was launched: a live online briefing for all staff across the children and adults multi-agency partnerships. The live briefings run online share learning from reviews and audits, procedure and guidance updates, and resources to support practice. The June 2022 briefing was attended by 289 delegates with the December 2022 briefing attendance increasing to over 500 delegates. The December 2022 session is [available to watch](#) on the Safeguarding Children Partnerships' YouTube Channel.

P1	NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)
P2	The Dynamic Support Pathway (DSP) is an all-age early intervention pathway for people with Learning Disabilities, Autism or both
P3	Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Procedure and Guidance updates
P4	LLR Safeguarding Children
P5	LLR Safeguarding Adults
P6-9	Trading Standards - Scam News
P10	Assessing Whether a Child is Throwing Toys
P11-18	Thematic Briefings
	Domestic Homicide Review
	Safeguarding Adult Reviews

**Welcome** to the latest edition of Safeguarding Matters. The focus of this edition is to share the learning from a number of case reviews that have been undertaken across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Partnerships, linking to national themes and safeguarding priority areas. The cases under review cover a wide spectrum and it is recommended that you don't just consider those with direct relevance but development your 'Whole family/community' awareness. The learning is presented to enable reflection on practice and service development. There is an action plan that you can use to plan how you might take the learning forward as an individual within a team, department or organisation.

**Thematic Briefings:**

- Child Neglect
- Safeguarding the Unborn Baby
- Perplexing Presentations – Fabricated and Induced Illness

**Domestic Homicide Review:**

- Frank DHR Co existing Care and Support, Domestic Abuse, Mental Health

**Safeguarding Adult Reviews:**

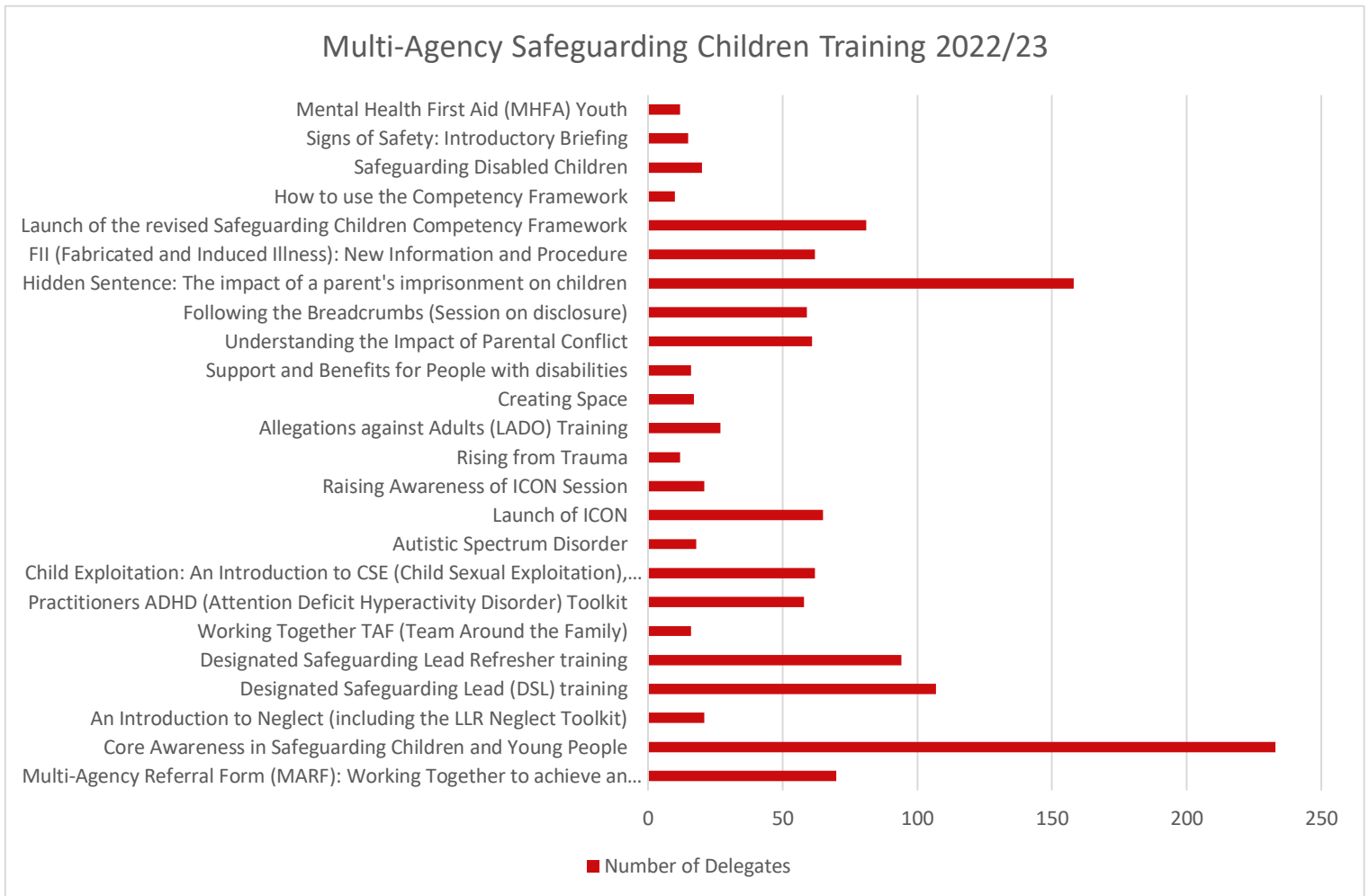
- Dora and Keith – Isolated couple and non-engagement with services
- Person D – Coexisting Substance Use & Mental Health (SUMH)
- Martin – Self-neglect in the context of harmful alcohol misuse
- Mrs Mayo- Co existing Care and Support, Domestic Abuse, Mental Health

**In other News**

**NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)**

NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are statutory bodies established from 1 July 2022, replacing Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). In Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland this means that the functions of Leicester City CCG, West Leicestershire CCG and East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG will become the NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board. The ICB is part of the integrated care system (ICS) with partners in LLR and will deliver a health and care system in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland that tackles inequalities in health, delivers improvements to the health and wellbeing and experiences of local people as well as providing value for money. Follow this link to the website: [NHS Integrated Care Boards \(ICBs\)](#)

In addition to developing resources, hosting regular trainers’ networks, providing weekly briefings, publishing regular Safeguarding Matters [newsletters](#), facilitating Safeguarding Matters Live, and developing the [LLR SCP’s YouTube channel](#), the LSCPb in partnership with Leicestershire and Rutland SCP, also facilitates multi-agency safeguarding children training across the two partnerships. During 2022/23 a total of 1,315 delegates attended our regular multi-agency safeguarding children training.



737 delegates completed pre and post evaluation forms. Professionals are asked to rate their own knowledge, skills and confidence before and after the training sessions and to set themselves three key actions which they will put into practice. These key actions are considered during impact evaluations, which explore how knowledge has been used in day-to-day work.

**“...A MORE HOLISTIC VIEW OF THE IMPACTS OF PARENTAL IMPRISONMENT ON CHILDREN AND THE WIDER FAMILY. KNOWING A LITTLE MORE ON HOW TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.”**

Evaluation of Families Affected by Imprisonment training

**“I ATTENDED THE TAF TRAINING JUST BEFORE I HELD MY FIRST MEETING AND IT HELPED ME ORGANISE HOW I WAS GOING TO RUN IT AND GAVE CLEAR ACTIONS AND GOALS FROM THE MEETING.””**

Evaluation of Holding an Effective Team Around the Family Meeting training

In addition to our regular training, the following larger events and conferences were facilitated, with a further 1,254 delegates attending from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland:

<b>Conferences Facilitated by MALDG (to delegates across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland) During 2022/23</b>		
<b>Conferences</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total attendees</b>
Missing from Home Joint Protocol	2	77
Looked After Children Health Summit	1	45
Supporting Families – Reducing the Impact of Parental Imprisonment	1	50
Safeguarding Matters Online Briefing	2	789
Learning from Reviews: Baby’s first Home (womb)	1	108
Learning from Reviews: Baby’s first Home (womb) (film played as trainer unavailable)	1	95
Young Carer’s Awareness Training	2	90
		<b>1,254</b>

The MALDG also supported the advertising and booking of the trauma-informed training programme designed and delivered by Barnardo’s and funded by the local Violence Reduction Network. In addition, the subgroup supported Disability Allowance Training by the Department of Work and Pensions Team, as well as promoting the ‘What is Adult Safeguarding?’ sessions run by the local Safeguarding Adults Boards.

### **Performance**

The partnership has a Quality Assurance Framework shared with the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership.

### **Self-Assessment (Section 11)**

During 2022/23 a self-assessment audit was carried out, the results of which will be considered at the start of 2023/24.

### **Audits & Bi-monthly Dip Sampling**

A multi-agency audit focusing on Electively Home Educated (EHE) children was undertaken during 2022/23. This group of children appears to have increased post pandemic and given learning from national high-profile cases, a Leicestershire rapid review, and a Leicester serious case review, it was agreed that an audit to consider visibility of children in this cohort would be valuable. Data made available suggested that there were the following numbers of children in each of the Local Authorities who were EHE:

- Leicester: 640
- Leicestershire: 882
- Rutland: 30

The audit considered how well information is being shared across agencies and whether there are missed opportunities to support children in this cohort was conducted. 20 cases each were considered for Leicestershire and Leicester and 10 cases for Rutland. The scope of the audit was one calendar year from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Findings suggested a number of areas of development including:

- Gaining an understanding of current information sharing practice within and across agencies across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland linked to Education, Health and Care (EHC).
- Developing improved and systematic information sharing to notify key agencies that a child has become Electively home Educated, taking account of any information governance issues and current practice, including use of the Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) appropriately.
- Review of how information is captured in the process of EHE starting, to include potential risk factors increasing a child's future vulnerability when children are referred to Inclusion teams.
- Consider any awareness raising work that is required including training to support professional understanding of the impact on children of their EHE status.
- Engagement work with parents to understand barriers to engagement with Education services including any method to establish links to Early Help offer or improve cooperation.
- Consider how EHE children are offered the opportunity of seeing the school Nurse/11+ Teen Health Service routinely as part of a targeted support offer.

A task and finish group will be set up to complete the required work.

In addition to in-depth audits, a programme of bi-monthly dip-samples were set up by the Safeguarding Children Partnership in January 2023 to enable them to frequently provide assurance and evidence current multi-agency working. The first dip-sample focused on repeat referrals, and the second is due to consider contacts with children experiencing mental ill health.

### **Other Assurance Work**

#### Information Sharing Agreement

The local information sharing agreement, shared between Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards was updated throughout 2022/23 and [re-published](#) in April 2023.

#### Internal Quality Assurance Processes

The Assurance and Audit Group (AAG) sought assurance from partner agencies around their internal quality assurance processes. The aim was to provide a picture of activity that agencies have completed over the previous twelve months, giving an overview of what the key successes have been, what are the areas for development and any key actions for the forthcoming year linked to the business plan priorities.

It was positive to note that agencies reported the dissemination of learning from reviews and audits internally through a number of different briefing methods. Additionally, examples were shared of learning workshops to support front line practitioners to strengthen safeguarding practice.

The group recognised that given the key role schools play in safeguarding, a stronger connection between the AAG and education was required. Options are being explored to create links to quality assurance work focused on safeguarding taking place in local schools.

#### Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centre (PSARC)

We have improved engagement with the East Midlands Children and Young People's Sexual Assault Service (EMCYPAS) raised concerns with LLR Safeguarding Children Partnerships to ensure that EMCYPAS is included in strategy discussions for children and young people who have experienced sexual assault.

**Between October 2022 - January 2023** EMCYPAS received **103** Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland invites to Strategy discussions which was a significant increase on previous engagement.

The impact of this work is enabling an increased number of children and young people who have experienced sexual assault to access the full range of sexual health screening, counselling and follow up including psychosocial therapy, and contact with a Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CHISVA)

The requirement to refer children and young people who have experienced sexual assault to the EMCYPAS has been incorporated into LLR SCP procedures and together with briefings for staff, this will support maintaining this improved response.

# Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

This report must ‘provide a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report’s period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvement’ (Working Together, 2018, p.83).

## Rapid Reviews & Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)

Safeguarding Children Partnerships have a statutory duty to ensure the following arrangements are in place in line with the Working Together 2018:

All serious child safeguarding incidents<sup>5</sup> must be reported by the local authority to the national Child Safeguarding Review Panel (established under the Children and Social Work Act 2017). Following notification safeguarding partners are requested to undertake a Rapid Review of partnership records to assemble the facts and identify any immediate learning.

If a Rapid Review identifies whole system learning partners notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and commence a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. An independent author is commissioned to conduct the review and write an independent report.

If a Rapid Review identifies learning points that can be made locally without the requirement of a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel are notified and will advise the Safeguarding Children Partners if they agree with this decision.

During 2022/23 the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel supported Leicester’s SCP decision not to commission an LCSPR following three rapid reviews. For the purposes of transparency, a table of 2022/23 referrals, recommendations, and outcomes is provided:

<b>CASE REVIEW GROUP (CRG) REFERRALS AND DECISIONS 2022/23</b>			
<b>Referral Date</b>	<b>Date Rapid Review Completed</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
01.04.2022	25.04.2022 (14 working days)	A causal link between any abuse or neglect and the outcome was not identified. Learning from the rapid review enabled the safeguarding partnership to progress work on improving local policies and procedures. C-DOP (Child Death Overview Panel) will be undertaking a review. An LCSPR was not recommended.	No LCSPR
09.11.2022	02.12.2022 (17 working days)	The CRG were of the view that the criteria for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) had been met, but there was consensus across agencies that information provided to the rapid review allowed a full evaluation of	No LCSPR

<sup>5</sup> The criteria for a serious child safeguarding incident can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-child-safeguarding-incident>



		the circumstances and identification of learning. An LCSPR was not recommended.	
16.02.2023	13.03.2023 (17 working days)	Comprehensive systems learning was identified through the rapid review. A detailed multi-agency action plan was developed to address this learning and allow the focus of local agencies to be on making the required changes. An LCSPR was not recommended.	No LCSPR

During 2022/23 Leicester's SCP concluded three Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and one remains in progress. Partnership action to implement the recommendations of one of the three concluded reviews has included:



- Updating our local practice guidance 'LLR Practice Guidance: Supporting Children and Young People who Self-Harm and/or have Suicidal Thoughts'. This work is currently in progress.
- [Thresholds for Access to Services for children and families](#), and [Practice Guidance: Supporting Children and Young People who Self-Harm and/or have Suicidal Thoughts](#) have been shared with LSCPB members to continue to promote within their organisations.

These important documents – which outline how partners work together to safeguard local children – have also been promoted in the October 2022 print

edition of our local newsletter, [Safeguarding Matters](#) (p. 3).

They have also been promoted via our Safeguarding Matters Live online session held on 7 December 2022, which is [available to rewatch](#) on our YouTube channel. This session was attended by over 500 delegates across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

- The SCP received assurance from the Child Death Overview Panel (C-DOP) that, with a view to prevent further deaths, integrated provision and enhanced joint working is available locally when a young person has died by suicide.

For two of the three reviews, action plans are in the process of being confirmed and these will be progressed throughout 2023/24 along with publication decisions.

## National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

During the 2022/23 business year, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's 'Child Protection in England National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo Hughes and Star

Hobson' was published, on 26 May 2022. It set out recommendations and findings for national government and local safeguarding partners to protect children at risk of serious harm.

At the end of September 2022, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel [published](#) their second national briefing, this time setting out findings from a thematic analysis of rapid reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) where domestic abuse featured.

In October 2022 the [Phase 1 report](#) of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's 'Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings' was published.

The Safeguarding Partners considered each of these publications in turn and took action and received assurance where required, including:

- The LSCPБ received Leicester City Council's audit of children with complex health needs and disabilities placed in dual registered special schools and children's homes. The report provided assurance to the partnership that no safeguarding concerns had been identified in respect of the children from Leicester City placed in qualifying dual residential special schools and children's homes by the audit or by the Local Authorities hosting the establishments over the past three years.
- Assurance provided that rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews in Leicester do involve local specialist domestic abuse services in reviews where domestic abuse is present (either current or non-recent).
- Local templates for rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews have been updated to ensure that protected characteristics of each family member, along with details of the whole family are recorded, to ensure that families' diverse needs, experiences and wider family networks are identified and analysed appropriately.
- Revision and relaunch of the local [domestic abuse policy](#).
- Independent scrutiny of workforce capacity across the partnership took place.
- Following the reviews into Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo Hughes's deaths, one of the identified learnings was that the agencies involved should have been more robust in their response to contacts and concerns raised by family members or anonymous sources. LSCPБ sought assurance from our Local Authority partners in response to a request issued by the National Panel

*'All Safeguarding Partners should assure themselves that referrals are not deemed malicious without a full and thorough multi-agency assessment, including talking with the referrer, and agreement with the appropriate manager'.*

Each Local Authority locally completed an internal audit to assure itself and LSCPB. Leicester city considered no less than 15 contacts received via the front door from source Anonymous/Family within the previous six months. The Local Authorities reported the following:

- Generally, the dip sample evidenced a positive picture with partner agency information considered and appropriate action taken resulting in the right services for children and young people.
- Information and discussions were held with parents to gain further information where required and appropriate and in the majority of these cases children were also spoken to, with information sought from them regarding their day-to-day experiences.
- The audit has highlighted that there is a need to focus on strengthening manager rationale for case closure.

## Partnership Priorities

During 2022/23 business year, the priorities of the partnership were safeguarding babies, child mental health and emotional wellbeing, keeping adolescents safe / supporting safe adolescents, safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds, and effective safeguarding in independent and out of school settings.

**Safeguarding Babies:** Improving how we work together with families before and after births to safeguard babies.

**What we did:** Early in 2022/23 [ICON](#) was launched across the local Safeguarding Children Partnership. ICON is a programme that focuses on effective interventions and research into the prevention of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) triggered by crying. I

It offers advice to parents/cares to enable a greater understanding of infant crying and consider that they plan how they will manage crying and get support. The ICON mnemonic stands for:

**I** infant crying is normal and will stop

**C** comfort methods can sooth a baby and the crying will stop

**O** it is OK to walk away

**N** never, ever shake a baby

National ICON Week took place from 26-30 September 2022 and was supported by the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships which included:

- Engaging male carers in ICON messages through promoting two [videos aimed at young fathers](#)
- Launching and publicising the Safeguarding Children Partnerships' [ICON web pages](#) which offer national and local resources to help parents cope with infant crying and reduce Abusive Head Trauma (AHT).
- A radio campaign delivered by EAVA community radio using ICON messages aimed at members of our diverse community voiced in Somalian, Gujarati, Hindi.
- Radio campaigns in English across Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland by GEM Radio and Greatest Hits Radio and an interview about ICON by BBC Radio Leicester.
- The touchpoint video films local parents and health staff discussing the six touchpoints for ICON delivered by midwives, health visitors and GPs across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. This is the video link ([Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICON Touch Point Video - ICON Cope](#)) and is now available on the national ICON website.
- [Social media communications](#) about ICON week sent out across our partnership organisations.

A request has been made for our [local ICON launch](#), led by the Integrated Care Board, to be promoted nationally.

**Impact:** Measuring impact of ICON is a key deliverable for our 2023-25 business plan.

We have received positive feedback from one of the families affected by AHT who have been pivotal in supporting the design and roll out of ICON nationally.

Feedback has also been received from the ICON Founder and Chief Programme Advisor Dr Suzanne Smith highly praising Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's approach:

**“I AM ABSOLUTELY BLOWN AWAY BY THIS! YOU HAVE ALL DONE SUCH AN AMAZING JOB... THERE IS SO MUCH TO APPLAUD HERE... THE EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE ARE SO INNOVATIVE AND ALREADY EMBEDDED.”**

ICON Founder and Chief Programme Advisor

## **Child Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing:**

**What we did:** Assurance was sought by the SCPs and at the August 2022 meeting of the Planning and Delivery Group (PDG) a presentation was received regarding Children and Young People (CYP) Mental Health and Neuro Diverse (ND) Transformation from Leicestershire NHS Partnership Trust (LPT). It was agreed that a forum for discussions to take place about child mental health, emotional wellbeing, and safeguarding, in more in-depth manner would be useful.

**Impact:** Meetings have since taken place between the PDG Chair and the Chairs of the new Children and Young People (CYP) Mental Health Integrated Collaborative Delivery Group to build links between the collaborative and the Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The collaborative has been established to empower local partners to work collectively towards the betterment of Children and Young People Mental Health pathways within the region.

Our 2023-25 business plan will continue to seek assurance that children subject to safeguarding arrangements and Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services are effectively safeguarded through effective multi-agency working.

## **Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents:**

**What we did:** The SCPs received an update from the LLR Child Criminal Exploitation Operations group. The group continues to oversee the development of a Contextual Framework to provide Adolescent Safeguarding and promote awareness raising to prevent future harm. The group provided assurance that:

- The group continues to oversee the development of a Contextual Framework to provide Adolescent Safeguarding & promote awareness raising to prevent future harm.
- This includes the development of a Community Safety Plan, that is overseen independently by our Safeguarding Units. The development of a statutory document holding as much weight as a Child Protection Plan that responds to worries and harm outside the home, within the context of where the harm occurs and transitions with the child after eighteen. This intensive targeted support will offer an alternative child protection plan for children at risk of extra familial harm.
- Engagement with the DfE funded Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme
- Children's Social Care have worked in collaboration with Leicestershire police to develop a Protocol for Children in Custody. This will support a child's wellbeing, identify underlying vulnerabilities by information exchange and improve children's lived experience in being received into police custody. If a trusted adult is featured in the child's world, they may attend to support the interview process. NHS Liaison and Diversion workers aim to see as many children as possible in custody.
- Representation within the Contextual Safeguarding Network for strategic leads.

- Use of DfE Practice Principles to tackle exploitation and extra familial harm to support a collaborative partnership response to safeguard adolescents.
- The CCE Ops group has oversight of the progression of our partnership data set. This is supported by the Daily Risk Management Meeting (DRMM) and the Fortnightly Operational Review Meeting (FORM) The partnership is represented at these risk management meetings; and need to be satisfied that all resources and opportunities have been utilised to improve safety and a reduction in risk.
- Progression tracking of high-risk cases is debated by the partnership and professional challenge is welcomed.
- There is a planned scoping exercise to map the existing safeguarding response to Extra Familial Harm provided by the local hub. This will also consider the interlinked agency pathways across the partnership to services that protect and support Adolescent Safeguarding. This will offer a coordinated approach across statutory and support services to implement early intervention and prevention programmes.
- A new quality assurance framework has been developed to not only analyse the data sets and indicators to understand trends and themes, but to also monitor the quality of partnership risk management meetings. This will provide both reassurance and quality assurance, that best practice is demonstrated in both supporting victims and utilising harm reduction approaches to challenge harmful behaviours.
- In response to our Missing children, we continue to offer independent return interviews. This work is quality assured through dip sampling Return Interview documentation. Diagnostic work is being undertaken in relation to the analysis of nil returns and how we respond to the unmet need of those children that for whatever reason do not engage with interviews. We continue to capture their voice and circumstances of the missing episodes, by trusted adults advocating for them.
- Becoming a trauma informed partnership will assist in early identification of our vulnerable children, improve response time and overall outcomes for children.
- A legacy from the Harm outside the Home DfE Project is the <https://www.childexploitationeastmidlands.org.uk> website. The site aims to provide schools a one stop access point to raise awareness and encourage working together to prevent child exploitation and abuse. A trauma informed tool kit is available to education to assist in recognising the signs associated with childhood trauma and adverse childhood experience. The site also signposts to local services and multi-agency training.

**Impact:** Whilst work has been undertaken locally, there is ongoing work to be done, particularly around putting in place a strategic plan for the local approach to safeguarding children from extra-familial threat. The Safeguarding Children Partnerships will, throughout 2023-25 continue to seek assurance that local safeguarding partners are working together to effectively safeguard children from extra-familial threat. This will include supporting a new regime of multi-agency audit work.

## **Safeguarding Children from Diverse backgrounds:**

**What we did:** A task and finish group was set up to take this work forward, chaired by an independent expert. The group focused on:

- Confirming a local agreement of the definition of “cultural competence”
- Leicester’s young people’s views were collated with the support of city rights and participation officers
- A survey of practitioners took place, including voluntary and community sectors
- Practitioner focus groups were held
- Learning from reviews and local data was collated
- An overview of workstreams, strategies, initiatives, and resources across the partnerships that relate to safeguarding children from black and minoritised communities was identified
- Quantitative data was provided by all three Local Authorities, Police, Integrated Care Board (ICB), and Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse (DSVA) services.

**Impact:** Consideration of race and cultural competence is now embedded in all audits and reviews across the Safeguarding Children Partnerships. Training that considers safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds was delivered to 520 delegates across the partnerships through 25 different training sessions, whilst a further 432 people watched relevant training videos. The partnerships recognise that Safeguarding Children from Diverse backgrounds needs to be an ongoing priority and that the task and finish group was just the start. The business plan priority for 2023-25 includes improved understanding of the role of immigration status, culture, faith, and parenting.

“PEOPLE SPEAK TO MY FATHER AND EXPECT HIM TO UNDERSTAND... HE CAN’T SPEAK ENGLISH VERY WELL... SOMETIMES HE’S ASKED FOR INTERPRETER BUT THERE HASN’T BEEN ONE”

Representative from Leicester’s Young Person’s Council

“I GOT UPSET BECAUSE I WANTED TO HAVE MY HERITAGE RECOGNISED... I SPOKE WITH MY SOCIAL WORKER AND SHE SORTED IT AND IT’S CARRIED ON SINCE THEN SO I’M HAPPIER.”

Representative from Leicester’s Young Person’s Council



**Effective Safeguarding in independent and out of school settings:** An independent schools forum was set up during 2022/23. The forum allows independent schools to consider topics specific to them such as safeguarding across borders, the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse on residential schools, and guardian arrangements.

A multi-agency task and finish group has been set up, chaired by Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs), to progress the other key deliverables in this objective focusing on out of school settings, small and community organisations. This work will continue into the 2023-25 business plan.

**Impact:** The independent schools forum is well attended with around 20 delegates per meeting. One outcome was a request that social care nationally allow more time for referrals to be completed before timing out. This request was raised at the National Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager Network and local areas agreed to consider making the required changes.

## Priorities 2023-25

We have identified five priority areas for us to focus our collective efforts, following the principle that we should concentrate our capacity on a small number of topics, in order to have significant impact, rather than dissipate our resources by trying to do everything. Based on our analysis of the situation across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) we have identified the following priority areas:

1. Safeguarding Babies – Improving how we work together with families before and after births to safeguard babies
2. Child Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing, and Safeguarding
3. Keeping Adolescents Safe / Supporting Safe Adolescents
4. Safeguarding Children from Diverse Backgrounds
5. Effective Safeguarding in Independent and Out of School Settings

For each of these areas, we have set out our rationale for prioritising the topic, and presented the key deliverables, leads, activities, impact measures, and timescales. This will enable us to monitor progress and secure assurance that our actions are making a positive difference to the lived experience of our residents. Our full business plan has been [published on our website](#).

# Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCPB) Structure Chart 2023/4

