
Multi Agency Child Protection Team – Progress update

CYPE Scrutiny

Decision to be taken by:

Date of meeting: 14th April 2026

Lead director/officer: Damian Elcock/Laurence Mackie-
Jones

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Damian Elcock
- Author contact details: damian.elcock@Leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1.0

1. Summary

The development of Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) is an essential part of the Families First Partnership reforms. Implementation is expected by end of March 2026.

The teams will pull together safeguarding professionals from across 4 agencies, Social Care, Police, Health and Education, to develop a centre of excellence that will drive safeguarding practice and ensure that there is more effective multi-agency collaboration. The team will have direct input into all strategy discussions, section 47 enquiries and child protection conferences.

2. Recommended actions/decision

2.1 Note the report and current position

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

3.1 There has been extensive stakeholder engagement through our Practitioner Forum, Shadow Children and Young People's Board, and Oversight group with members from Health, Police, Education. There have also been engagement events attended by schools, community and voluntary sector groups etc

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

4.1 In April 2025 the Department for Education published guidance on the most significant reforms in children's social care for three decades, under the banner of Families First Partnerships.

4.2 The reforms cover a range of practice areas, the two most significant outline the merging of two current separate areas of work, Early Help and Child in Need support into community based Family Helps teams; and the creation of MACPTs.

4.3 Work on the implementation of Family Help teams has been underway since May 2025 and the model has been piloted in one of the six existing Early Help clusters, and plans are in place for wider roll out of these teams into the remaining 5 clusters over the next 3 months.

4.4 Regional discussions with key stakeholders across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) started in January 2026 to develop a shared plan for implementing MACPTs recognising both the existing footprint of health and police organisations and the potential future impact of Local Government Reform.

4.5 Three potential delivery models covering the whole of LLR have been developed, and these have been subject to SWOT analysis by each partner. A follow up meeting to review

the collated analysis will take place on Wednesday 1st April 2026 with the aim of reaching a consensus on a preferred model.

4.6 Appendix 1 outlines the 3 potential models. Currently we are proposing that Model 1a would best meet the needs of Leicester City Children's Services and the families we support, as it is more firmly rooted in one of the key principles of the Families First Reform, that support services are founded on relational practice, both between professionals and between professionals and families. Having named workers for each Local Authority MACPT is essential to that principle. We do not believe that the other models deliver this.

5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The proposed option will however lead to more effective collaboration with partners to manage demand for children's social care which may lead to reduced costs in future.

Signed: Mohammed Irfan, Head of Finance

Dated: 30 March 2026

5.2 Legal implications

The proposed Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams build on existing statutory safeguarding duties rather than introducing new legal powers. The arrangements are consistent with the Children Act 1989 and Working Together to Safeguard Children, particularly in relation to multi-agency involvement in section 47 enquiries and child protection processes.

Overall, there are no direct legal implications arising from the report from a social care and safeguarding perspective.

Signed: Sonali Unka – Principal Solicitor

Dated: 31.03.26

5.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The report provides an update on the progress of implementing Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland and presents three potential models for these teams. The proposals are intended to strengthen safeguarding arrangements and improve outcomes for children and families across Leicester through

closer partnership working between Social Care, Health, Police and Education. This integrated approach aims to ensure consistent, timely and equitable support for all children, regardless of background or protected characteristic.

In order to demonstrate that the consideration of equalities impacts is taken into account, as an integral part of the process of reviewing or amending existing services, it is recommended that an Equality Impact Assessment be undertaken on the agreed option.

Improving coordination across agencies and promoting consistent responses for children who may be more vulnerable to harm or disadvantage, including those with disabilities, from minority ethnic communities, or living in deprived circumstances should lead to positive impacts.

Equality considerations should continue to be monitored through implementation, workforce development, and regular review to ensure that inclusive and equitable practice remains embedded across all partner agencies.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated: 31 March 2026

5.4 Climate Emergency implications

As service delivery by the council and partners generally contributes to the council's carbon footprint, any impacts could be considered by the organisations involved in this collaboration, such as encouraging the use of sustainable travel options, using buildings and materials efficiently and following the council's sustainable procurement guidance, as appropriate and relevant.

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246

Dated: 30th March 2026

5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

6. Background information and other papers:

[Families first partnership programme guide: delivery expectations for statutory safeguarding partners year 2 \(2026 to 2027\)](#)

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1 – outline of the three proposed models for MACPT delivery across key partners.



MACPT%20Worskho
p%20-%20Model%20

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

No