# Agenda Item 9



То:	Cabinet
Date:	16 June 2021
Report of:	Head of Corporate Strategy
Title of Report:	Oxford City Council Safeguarding Report 2020/21

		Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:		To report on the progress made on the Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Action Plan 2019/20	
Key decision:		No	
Executive Board Member:		Cllr Louise Upton - Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthier Oxford	
		Champion for Cycling and Walking	
Corporate Priority:		Supporting Flourishing Communities	
Policy Framework: Council Strategy 2020-24		Council Strategy 2020-24	
Recommendations: That Cabinet resolves to:			
1.	<b>Note</b> the key achievements of the Safeguarding work delivered through Oxford City Council during 2019/20;		
2.	Agree the Safeguarding Action Plan 2021/22 set out in Appendix 1; and		
3.	Approve Oxford City Council's safeguarding policy updated May 2021		

Appendices			
Appendix 1	Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Action Plan 2021/22		
Appendix 2	Oxford City Council Policy and Procedures for safeguarding children, and adults with care and support needs		
Appendix 3	Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) Governance Structure		
Appendix 4	Equalities Impact Assessment		

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# Introduction

- 1. This is an agreed annual report to Cabinet on how we are fulfilling our statutory safeguarding duties within Oxford City Council. It aims to
  - Outline the multi- agency safeguarding arrangements in Oxfordshire
  - Share the results of the safeguarding self-assessment audit 2020.
  - Highlight the key achievements and progress made in relation to the safeguarding work delivered by Oxford City Council.
  - Recognise the impact of COVID-19 on safeguarding issues and Oxford City Council's responses to these
  - Focus on areas identified to strengthen in 2021/22, collated within an action plan attached at Appendix 1.
  - Consider identified challenges and risks in relation to external environment and actions that we will contribute to, to support the system.
- 2. Oxford City Council has a legal duty of care to ensure children and adults at risk are protected within the facilities, services and activities under the direct remit and control of the Council. The Council has specific legal responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 (section 11) and the Care Act 2014 (sections 42-46) which aim to make sure the welfare and development needs of children are met and that children are protected from harm.
- 3. Safeguarding is the action taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and protect them from harm as well as protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse and maltreatment, preventing harm to children's health or development and ensuring that they grow up with the provision of safe and effective care enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.
- 4. Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Policy builds upon existing good practice across its services and sets out its safeguarding policies and procedures.
- 5. The Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed in May 2021, the updated Policy can be viewed in Appendix 2.

The updates include

- Appendix 1 MASH Glossary of terms
- Appendix 2 Link to internal safeguarding page
- Appendix 3 Link added on Discrimination

# Oxfordshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

- 6. The development, delivery and quality monitoring of safeguarding service provision is the responsibility of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB).
- 7. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced flexibility to replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with new local safeguarding arrangements. It also established that collective responsibility and accountability of these arrangements lies with Oxfordshire County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Police, "the three safeguarding partners".

- 8. In response to these changes, the three safeguarding partners in Oxfordshire have made arrangements to work together as an Executive Group with overall accountability for safeguarding consisting of the Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County Council, the Assistant Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Accountable Officer of The Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 9. The purpose of the Executive Group is to work with relevant partners through the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB), under the leadership and scrutiny of an independent Chair, Derek Benson, newly appointed to the role.

The focus of the Executive Group this year has been to oversee the multi-agency COVID-19 Opportunities and Risks register, and as key statutory agencies ensure they are sighted on new and emerging concerns, seek evidence and assurance from OSCB the concerns are being addressed and there is no duplication across the system.

The independent Chair acts as the link between the Executive Board and the OSCB.

- 10. The Business Group continues to work operationally under the OSCB. This group includes all the chairs of OSCB sub-groups and strategic leads for operational services. Its purpose is to recognise emerging concerns, problem solve, work collaboratively across the system and escalate issues when needed. The Council's Policy and Partnership Team Manager is a representative on the group for both City and all Districts. The key focus for this group over the last 12 months have been:
- 11. Food and Fuel poverty
  - Actions of the group The Joint Community Hub working group is bringing together initiatives to enhance welfare support through Community Hubs at City and District Councils and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).
  - Oxford City Councils food response was designed around the lockdown, particularly aimed at people who were vulnerable, housebound, and those that would not have access to or could not afford food.
  - Oxford City Council set up a single point of contact telephone number and using the locality hubs as a base, set up an emergency food parcel delivery system for our residents.
  - We also worked with Oxford Brookes University and Good Food Oxford to create a balanced and nutritious food parcel offer that was sensitive to cultural and religious requirements such as Halal and Kosher.
  - In addition to the delivery of the emergency food parcels, we also began contacting the recipients to understand the root causal issues and began offering support through Council services and other partner services, such as advice centres.
  - As we moved through the pandemic our support to the most vulnerable through the Community Food System evolved. The system now includes food banks, community food larders, local community fridges, SOFEA, GFO and community food operations such as Oxford Mutual Aid and Oxford Community Action.

• The support included Oxford City Council targeting funding through Government Food Essentials Funding and COVID Winter Support grants amongst others. In addition we supported the system with logistics such as vans and drivers, signposting groups to training such as safeguarding and support with their own systems and processes.

We worked with Good Food Oxford (GFO) to set up the City Community Food network, within the City this enables the sharing of resources, joint opportunities, upcoming issues and working together to ensure that nobody falls between the gaps

 Oxford City Council supported local Schools to ensure free school meals were provided for those that are eligible and continued in school holidays through participating in data mapping exercise to identify children and families and attending weekly sessions with social and health care colleagues to review the needs of families identified and target outreach support

#### 12. Vulnerable Children

There is growing concern about children hidden from view for periods of time during the pandemic, this intensified by non-attendance to school.

Attendance for vulnerable children on educational health care plans has been 88% and we have seen an increase in home elective education of 38% since September last year.

Action of the group

- Early help teams are prioritising contact with these children and families and are
- Risk assessing every individual child within a family unit
- Weekly system calls have been established to discuss caseloads and children of concern
- Joint plans have been developed to support these children
- Oxford City Council's Youth ambition team are included in the system calls. They are currently supporting children directly through this early help mechanism

#### 13. Children missing out on education

Oxford City Council was concerned about the percentage of children missing out on education and the exacerbation of the attainment gap for disadvantaged children before COVID-19. In response to this concern an education summit was convened, led by Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP), to start a dialogue about finding a collaborative way forward to address this issue

The education summit came up with a set of recommendations and subsequent actions, in summary

Lobby Government for establishment of an Education Opportunity Area in Oxford.

OSP to commission letter to Secretary of State signed by members + MPs + others setting out case for Oxford Opportunity Area

• Set up computers for schools donation programme

Oxfordshire Community Foundation coordinating a programme targeting donated laptops to schools for use by digitally excluded children

• CPD expansion and creation of linkages between existing programmes

Oxfordshire teaching schools – 100 trainees Brookes and Oxford University CPD collaboration County Council support programme with Oxford Head Teachers Examine the creation of a funding pot to help backfill teachers released for training

- Increase partner involvement with oxford community impact zone
   Invite much wider group of stakeholders including businesses to participate in Community Impact Zone (CIZ)
- Expansion of schools access programme

Mapping exercise within Oxford University + Colleges to better understand existing links with schools Expand twinning arrangement to involve other Oxford colleges and local schools

Progress already made on action - Set up computers for schools donation programme.

This lack of digital access has been intensified with home schooling, poverty, larger families requiring more than one device to support children equally in the home.

Officers from Oxford City Council worked with the COVID-19 Education Cell at Oxfordshire County Council to feed into a needs gap analysis survey for school laptops.

Meetings between City Council, Oxford University, County and OCF looked at a potential donation pipeline.

210 Oxford City Council laptops were identified as available for donation

Officers have been liaising with an established partnership <u>'Planet 200'</u> between a City Council IT contractor Planet IT and The Oxford Academy, a school which services three of the areas of highest need in the City (Blackbird Leys 10%, Rose Hill 20% and Littlemore 20%; IMD) and with 32% of its students in receipt of Free School Meals.

14. The business group has developed the Risk Register, which identifies key areas of concern in relation to the impact of COVID and it is monitored and reviewed at every meeting

- 15. Oxford City Council is further represented on the performance and quality assurance group, training sub groups, exploitation sub group, neglect strategy group, as well other task and finish groups.
- 16. A diagram showing the full Safeguarding governance framework can be viewed in Appendix 3
- 17. The Adult Safeguarding Board, OSAB also has an independent Chair, however the post is currently vacant, with recruitment under way. The Policy and Partnership Team Manager is the City Council's representative on this Board and has been welcomed onto the interview panel for a second time for the new independent Chair appointment.
- 18. All of the boards and sub groups have continued to meet virtually throughout the pandemic. The OSCB business group increasing the amount of meetings.

# **Oxford City Council Safeguarding Responsibilities**

- 19. Oxford City Council has a statutory duty to ensure that, in discharging its functions, it has regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and well-being of children, young people and adults with care and support needs. Day to day safeguarding challenges are supported and managed by a group of Safeguarding Champions from across service areas with oversight being provided by the Safeguarding Coordinator and three Designated lead officers
- 20. Oxford City Council is required to complete an annual self-assessment to evidence standards in the quality of its safeguarding work. The self-assessment audit, which is a joint audit between the OSCB and OSAB spans across all Council departments, is approved by the Council's Strategic Safeguarding Group and the Head of Corporate Strategy. The audit then goes through a vigorous peer group assessment process with the Council's countywide partners for challenge and approval. This year Oxford City Council has been able to evidence best practice in all areas for the fourth consecutive year.
- 21. Adult safeguarding procedures support adults who are at greatest risk. Those who rely on others (staff, family and neighbours) for their care and support. In Oxfordshire this is an estimated 43,419 people.
  - In 2019-20, Oxfordshire County Council was contacted 1,530 times on the consultation line that provides support and guidance to a person concerned about an adult.
  - 5,116 Concerns were raised. Out of these concerns raised 1,296 people required services under the care act 25%.
  - The impact of COVID has seen an increase in mental health, social isolation and people struggling with bereavement and loneliness.
  - Oxford City Council's own staff, reporting into our safeguarding concern system MYCONCERN, are also reflecting the increase in these wellbeing challenges, with an increase in reports during lock down.
  - Oxford City Council has utilised this information by ensuring staff working in the locality HUBS target their work, receive training needed to confidently work with these issues, understand the system pathways to enable sign posting and timely appropriate support for these individuals.

- Oxford City Council trained 100% of all locality HUB staff within the first 4 weeks of the first lock down, integrated our policy, procedure and Safeguarding process within our work with local partners and provided endof-day HUB staff support sessions to manage and support both residents and staff with issues arising daily.
- Oxford City Council has worked directly with The Oxford Hub to offer support and guidance on safeguarding practice and working with volunteers.

The child population of Oxfordshire has grown by 7% in the last ten years and is estimated to stand at 143,400 young people aged under-18. Alongside this growth there has been increased demand for services particularly in referrals to child mental health services. Neglect is the most common reason for children to be subject to child protection plans (65% at end-March 2020). This is higher than the national average, of 48%.

To respond to this local concern an independent peer review was initiated by the County Council to try and understand where we could target resources differently to make a more marked impact on this issue. The OSCB Neglect strategy 2020/23 has been developed and an Action Plan managed by the Neglect Strategy Group. In addition, each member agency of the Neglect Strategy group has been asked to develop its own Neglect Action Plan based on suggested common core components and report back to each quarterly meeting, in order to ensure a more robust ownership and responsibility at an individual as well as a collective agency basis. The peer group findings showed that to tackle Neglect effectively it needed a system wide approach.

- 22. Oxford City Council has incorporated specific actions in relation to the core components within our action plan. These are:
  - Include a specific slide on Neglect in awareness briefings for staff and councillors.
  - Offer training to front facing teams on using the neglect practitioner assessment tool, to support staff to check list their thoughts and thinking.
  - Two staff to attend the neglect practitioner forums, to share good practice and cascade through our champion network.
  - Ensure that learning from neglect serious case reviews is shared within our Communications plan, through videos and the voice of the child's lived experience.
  - Ensure our Housing teams record all concerns on our central MYCONCERN system.
  - Share case examples on the intranet.
  - The Policy and Partnership team manager presented the cross district action plan and reported on the progress of the actions to the March Neglect Strategy Group.
  - The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Executive Group is taking a keen interest in how the work to tackle neglect is progressed.

# Safeguarding Audit 2020

23. Oxford City Council was required to evidence its standard of work in the following areas:

For 2020, the standards that are being assessed are as follows:

- 1. Leadership, Strategy and Working Together
- 2. Safeguarding Board Effectiveness
- 3. Service Delivery and Effective Practice
- 4. Commissioning Arrangements
- 5. Impact Assessment
- 24. The evidence provided is given the following RAG rating:

Green – Fully met and evidenced – Best Practice

**Amber –** the standard/compliance point is not met but work has begun or work is underway but has experienced delays in completion

**Red** – the standard/compliance point is not met, work is not underway and there are issues with commencing work

25. Oxford City Council's assessed standards were as follows:

	Leadership, strategy and working together	Safeguarding Board Effectiveness	Service delivery and effective practice	Commissioning arrangements
Oxford City Council	Green	Green	Green	Green

The full Self-Assessment is available as a background paper to the report

A peer review was held in March that enables partners to check and challenge the self-assessments of different organisations. Oxford City Council upheld there green ratings across all 5 areas within this process for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

# Key achievements to note 2019/20

# Leadership, Strategy and Working Together

26. The Head of Corporate Strategy has taken overall responsibility for Safeguarding, following removal of the Assistant Chief Executive role from the Council's

structure. Three senior staff members are designated as safeguarding leads. These leads will support the Head of Corporate Strategy to deliver this agenda. Achievement this year have included:

The Council's Policy and Partnership Team Manager / and former Assistant Chief Executive have attended all four board meetings and Executive board meetings for both OSCB and OSAB this year. An example of constructive challenge to OSAB this year from Oxford City Council has been:

- As Chair of the Refugee, Vulnerable Migrant and Asylum Seeker coordination group for Oxford we had been discussing as a partnership that there have been growing concerns about the availability and access to interpretation services for people who are experiencing domestic abuse issues or health concerns.
- Oxford City Council supported the providers to bring a report with real case examples to the group. Oxford City Council presented this report to OSAB with a call to the board to explore the safeguarding issues that had arisen for this vulnerable group due to lack of accessible interpretation services.
- As a result of this challenge, the Board worked effectively across the partnership to produce a poster and campaign for health services to increase awareness to all health staff about the interpretation services available. The Board wrote back to the group to inform them of the actions taken.
- The Council's Policy and Partnership Team Manager has participated in three serious case reviews and subsequent peer learning events this last year.
- The learning/recommendations from these serious case reviews have resulted in the following actions:
  - An audit of safeguarding practice across our housing team functions.
  - Targeted training on central reporting system MYCONCERN.
- Oxford City Council staff have engaged with and are supporting the recommendations from the recent 'JACOB' serious case review and will be participating in all three work streams highlighted within the report in relation to

Education

Child exploitation

System approach.

Cllr Louise Upton has also participated in the learning review workshop

- Oxford City Council put forward the Safeguarding Serious Adult review (SAR) for the homelessness deaths and requested an independent review of these and the process. This resulted in an independent review report, an ongoing conversation with County and multi-agency action plan.
- This multi-agency action plan aims fulfil all the recommendations in the review and gain traction on a whole systems approach to homelessness countywide. This is making good progress.
- A new Governance structure for homelessness has now been established and convened for the first time in this capacity in May. Oxford City have been

striving towards this system wide support for some time, this is a very positive step forward.

- A strategic, planned approach to domestic abuse, Oxford City Council has actively contributed to the development and delivery of the countywide plan and continues to deliver bespoke services for victims of domestic abuse.
- 27. Our internal safeguarding structure ensures we have a clear line of communication between the OSAB, OSCB, and the Council's strategic safeguarding group. We have responded to changing need during COVID-19 and integrated the Locality Hub work into this framework by linking in safeguarding champions to each of the 6 Locality Response Hubs providing 7-day-a-week support over longer hours.
- 28. We refreshed all training to support, encourage and enable staff to report through MYCONCERN.
- 29. We allocated staff to support Oxford Together's management of their volunteer database, ASANA, with Super-users providing safeguarding support, advice and coordination of requests across a range of partners.
- 30. The MYCONCERN application has had a positive impact on the safeguarding culture within Oxford City Council. Quarterly reports are published on the intranet to show staff across the organisation the current areas of concern. Reporting trends in relation to topic or service area are bought to the attention of the strategic safeguarding group for discussion and further consideration.
- 31. Most recently two we have identified are:
  - Much higher reports of poor mental health in adults although we saw an increase in reports into MYCONCERN particular through the lock down periods of the pandemic it was evident that staff were unclear about how to manage or sign post these concerns. As a result we have imbedded our mental health worker into the case management meetings to offer advice and guidance on pathways into services.
  - During December 2020 it was noted that we had a decrease in child reported concerns, which did not reflect the local picture. After further exploration this was a positive outcome of the imbedded Youth Ambition workers in the system weekly call, engaging with these vulnerable children at a much earlier stage with other partners, preventing a safeguarding referral being required.

#### **Commissioning, Service Delivery and Effective Practice**

32. The 2020 self-assessment did not require Oxford City Council to audit its smaller commissioned service this year, these are services that are funded through our grant programme, and external funding streams in housing. Nevertheless, we considered it best practice to continue to audit organisations that work directly with, provide services to, or have contact with children or adults with care and support needs; recognising that safeguarding is more important than ever during these difficult times. We have selected 5 providers to undergo audit this year from our providers list and these audits will be complete by end of March 2021. This

aims to offer the City Council reassurance that safeguarding practice remains of the highest quality and further support is offered where required to our smaller providers.

#### Performance & Resource Management

- 33. Now that the MYCONCERN application is fully implemented the Council is able to track the number of safeguarding concerns raised, referral rates and reporting trends. From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 there have been 135 concerns logged. The proportion of adult concerns to child concerns is 70%-30%.
- 34. From these 135 concerns, 63 were referred to either adult or child safeguarding teams or directly to emergency services. The remaining concerns, not referred further, were managed internally or sign posted to a different service for support.
- 35. The Council raises awareness of safeguarding responsibilities and how to raise concerns.
- 36. The Council's one hour awareness briefing session, which is now an interactive online session, has enabled us to continue to deliver the sessions throughout the pandemic.
- 37. Sessions have also been made available and delivered to Councillors in December 2020, including providing local impact information on the effects of COVID. There are more planned for June/July.
- 38. Managing Suicide threats had become an increasing concern for our customer services teams, who were managing day-to-day challenging conversations, we provided bespoke training and guidance notes to support and upskill staff.
- 39. We asked staff in the annual safeguarding questionnaire if this still remains a concern further to introducing targeted training and guidance. The majority said it did not and gave positive case example of how they had used the training in their work.
- Training session on MYCONCERN delivered at team level
- Intranet pages being regularly updated with information and key messages
- Quarterly newsletters showing staff what have been the main trends of safeguarding reports and what teams are reporting, through visual graphs.
- o Let's talk sessions for staff to learn and share interactively about the issues

#### Outcomes for, and Experiences of, People Who Use Statutory Services

- 40. As part of the Health Inequalities Project Oxford City Council has funded two embedded mental health workers who sit within the Tenancy Sustainment Team. The team manage high risk tenants with complex needs. The two mental health professionals are supporting housing officers to better understand mental health issues, risk and management of concerns and navigate the most appropriate pathways for support for these clients.
- 41. The Council has evaluated the client experience of this project, the main areas of success have been:

- The intense support the embedded mental health workers provided to the 24 tenants in phase 1 of the project which led to many tenants accessing the most appropriate services. This has been key to achieving positive tenant outcomes for both their physical and mental health, and has reduced demand on services.
- Phase 2 (May 2020 May 2021) of the project has seen an additional 28 clients supported, with varying levels of mental health and tenancy sustainment issues.
- As a result of this support, 27 are now engaging with services within the OMHP, 13 of these tenants avoided Mental Health Act assessment/hospital admission/section, and 5 tenants avoiding re admissions to hospital. 2 tenants also stopped recurring self-harm and suicide attempts, which had been entrenched behaviour for a number of years.
- 16 tenants complied and sustained compliance with their medication over the period of support, with 8 engaging with their mental health treatment team and 7 with the outreach team.
- Primary prevention work also formed a key part of support provided, to keep tenants well and engaging. 15 of the tenants began to have contact with friends and family, 10 reduced or cleared their debts and 7 attending therapy, group support or volunteering.
- 42. The Health Inequalities Project reports progress into the Heath Inequalities Commissioning Group, which works in partnership with many agencies across Oxfordshire and is currently chaired by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 43. The success of this project has resulted in us securing further funding to extend this for another further year. With an aim to support a further 100 clients in the community.
- 44. The inclusion of modern slavery in the Care Act 2014 as a form of abuse means that the subject of modern slavery is included in the remit of adult safeguarding in England. Oxford City Council As part of the Thames Valley Partnership is hosting the Victims First Willow Project<sup>1</sup>. The Thames Valley-wide service seeks to identify and support those individuals who are assessed as being victims of exploitation or who are deemed to be at risk of exploitation. The project has also provided in-house modern slavery training to front line staff in the Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Response Teams.
- 45. Oxford City Council's successful bid to the Controlling Migration Fund has enabled us to commission research to investigate the nature and extent of modern slavery and trafficking in Oxford. The findings will be used by city and county-wide bodies responsible for community safety to:
  - Identify where exploitation is happening and who is vulnerable

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Willow Project is part of 'Victims First' and is one of a number of services for victims commissioned by the PCC. It will be delivered by Thames Valley Partnership under a two year contract with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- Understand how to protect and support victims better
- Make it harder for exploiters and traffickers to operate in our area
- Our successful bid to the controlling migration fund has enabled a detailed piece of local research into modern slavery. The final report is about to be published

#### The key areas of focus for 2021/22

- 46. To support the priorities of the OSAB and OSCB and to further improve safeguarding provision in all of Oxford City Council's service areas, our analysis identified the greatest needs as:
  - 1. Homelessness
  - 2. Mental Health and Wellbeing
  - 3. Healthy Lifestyles

Details on actions being taken forward to support these areas can be found in Appendix on actions we will take to address these priories can be found in Appendix 1.

#### Risks and Challenges

- 47. The sheer volume of work related to vulnerable adults affected by mental health issues, drugs and alcohol.
  - Preventing homelessness and reducing rough sleeping remains a top corporate priority under "Thriving Communities". The Council continues to commit to services and support for rough sleepers and single homeless people
  - Oxford City Council continues to successfully attract large amounts of grant (e.g. Rough Sleep Initiative 3 at £1.5m and recently Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding at £1.064m for short term services and £600 for longer-term services.)
  - Operational changes brought about by the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2018 see Oxford City Council having duties to many more single people, who are often vulnerable due to their complexity of needs. Our teams have met this challenge but there are often concerns, including safeguarding concerns for many clients' welfare.
  - We have extended the work of the embedded mental health worker for a further 12 months and continue to bid for additional monies for further extension of this model.
  - Another significant pressure is the higher number of deaths of rough sleepers

     mainly in our supported accommodation but also sometimes on the
     streets.
  - The recommendations and subsequent action plan for the homelessness review referred to point 28 of this report has begun to address the system

wide approach to homelessness and culture change in supporting this client group.

- 48. It is also important in the next 12 months to ensure that:
  - Safeguarding is embedded across all services areas
  - Team managers are able to support staff with safeguarding concerns
  - Staff can confidentially raise concerns for colleagues
  - New staff induction programmes include access to MYCONCERN and appropriate training
  - Members receive training and understand how to report safeguarding and handle sensitive information
  - Training addresses local and national concerns
  - Sufficient horizon scanning is conducted to allow the Council to predict impending trends, changes to government priorities and funding opportunities
  - Staff are listened to through the internal survey about what they feel they need support with most in relation to good quality safeguarding practice.

#### **Financial implications**

- 49. Oxford City Council contributes an annual contribution towards the running costs of the OSCB of £10,000 and the OSAB of £10,000. The Council has two members of staff who are active trainers who contribute to the OSCB training pool and one for the OSAB training pool.
- 50. All work identified in this report can be funded from within the Policy and Partnerships budget.

#### Legal issues

51. Oxford City Council's legal responsibilities are set out in the body of the report and the Appendices, by reference to various Acts including - Children Act 1989/2004, Care Act 2014, Modern Slavery Act 2015, Homelessness Reduction Act 2018, Mental Capacity Act 2005, Equality Act 2010 and Children & Social Work Act 2017. Otherwise there are no legal implications arising from the report.

#### **Equalities impact**

- 52. Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Policy is attached as an appendix.
- 53. EIA is attached as an appendix, there are no issue to highlight.

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# Background Papers:

1 Safeguarding self - assessment 2020

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