

To: City Executive Board
Date: 13 June 2018
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive
Title of Report: Oxford City Council Safeguarding Report 2017/18

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To report on the progress made on the Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Action Plan 2017/18
Key decision:	Yes
Executive Board Member:	Cllr Marie Tidball, Supporting Local Communities
Corporate Priority:	Strong and Active Communities
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan
Recommendations: That the City Executive Board resolves to:	
1.	Note the key achievements of the Safeguarding work delivered through Oxford City Council during 2017/18;
2.	Agree the Safeguarding Action Plan 2018/19 set out in Appendix 1; and
3.	Approve Oxford City Council's safeguarding policy updated April 2018

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Action Plan 2018/19
Appendix 2	Oxford City Council participation in Safeguarding Boards and Working Groups
Appendix 3	Oxford City Council Policy for safeguarding children, young people and adults with care and support needs

1. Background

- 1.1 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). Oxford City Council is represented on both of these Boards and as a key partner actively contributes to safeguarding and the promotion of health and wellbeing of children and adults with care and support needs within the city.
- 1.2 Oxford City Council aims to ensure that all its activities have safeguarding at their core. Safeguarding vulnerable groups and creating an inclusive environment with accessible services is a key objective in building a world class city for everyone.
- 1.3 To achieve this aim Oxford City Council represents on the Safeguarding Boards at executive level and on each of the sub groups (see appendix 2). We are also responsible for safeguarding coordination between district councils.
- 1.4 Each year we listen to the views of our staff, volunteers and councillors, and we analyse our safeguarding needs against the county set priorities. We have ensured that emerging concerns are addressed in the action plan (see appendix 1) and fed back to the safeguarding boards.
- 1.5 We have continued to deliver high quality safeguarding training throughout the organisation. Our safeguarding awareness campaign has seen safeguarding referrals double in the last quarter.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This report aims to:
 - Highlight the key achievements and progress made in relation to the safeguarding work delivered by Oxford City Council this year inclusive of the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 26th May 2018
 - Share the results of the external safeguarding self-assessment 2017
 - Focus on areas identified for further improvement in 2018/19: collated within an action plan attached at Appendix 1.
 - Consider challenges and risks in relation to external service changes and actions identified within the plan.

3. Safeguarding Audit 2017

- 3.1 The Council completes an annual self-assessment to evidence standards in the quality of our safeguarding work. The Self- Assessment Audit, which is a joint audit between the OSCB and OSAB spans across all departments, is approved by the Strategic Safeguarding Officers meeting and the Assistant Chief Executive. This audit then goes through a vigorous peer group assessment process with our County partners for challenge and approval. Oxford City Council has evidenced a continuous improvement in the quality of our safeguarding practice, evidenced this year by achieving an overall 8 areas of

Best Practice out of a possible 10. We continually achieve high scores and we are highly regarded by the safeguarding boards for our commitment to embed a positive safeguarding culture.

3.1 The Council is required to evidence its standard of work in the following areas:

- **(1) Leadership, Strategy and Working Together**

- a. Senior management have commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs
- b. There is a clear statement of the agency's responsibility towards children and adults with care and support needs and this is available to all staff
- c. Local Safeguarding Board Effectiveness

- **(2) Commissioning, Service Delivery and Effective Practice**

- a. Service development takes into account the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children and adults with care and support needs & families
- b. There is effective inter-agency working to safeguard & promote the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs
- c. There is effective information sharing
- d. Commissioning arrangements are robust, effective and cost-effective
- e. Thematic Issue: Transport of children and adults with care and support needs

- **(3) Performance & Resource Management**

- a. There is effective training on safeguarding & promoting the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs for all staff working with or, depending on the agency's primary functions, in contact with children and adults with care and support needs
- b. Safer recruitment procedures, including vetting procedures and those for managing allegations, are in place

- **(4) Outcomes for, and Experiences of, People Who Use Statutory Services**

- a. People's experiences of safeguarding

3.2 Oxford City Council's Assessed Standards were as follows:

Oxford City Council Safeguarding Audit 2017										
	1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	2C	2D	3A	3B	4A
Oxford City Council	B	B	B	G	B	G	B	B	B	B

Blue – the standard/compliance point is fully met and can be evidenced as completed

Green – the standard/compliance point is near completion or fully met but cannot be evidenced at this point

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

The full Self-Assessment is available here: [Safeguarding Audit 2017](#)

4. Key achievements to note 2017/18

4.1 All of the actions identified within Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Action Plan 2017/18 have been completed or are in progress. Details are provided below.

- **Leadership, Strategy and Working Together**

4.2 We have implemented a network of safeguarding champions. They are visible to all staff and promoted through internal communication lines. The champions are coordinated by the Safeguarding Coordinator with quarterly meetings and regular group updates. The champions are a means of disseminating information, quality assuring referrals and raising safeguarding standards throughout the organisation.

- [Link to safeguarding champions](#)

4.3 Bespoke training for champions has been agreed for June 2018. The training will focus on implementing the safeguarding policies and procedures we work under to protect vulnerable groups such as homeless people and sex workers. We are also beginning to implement the principles of restorative practice to ensure a collaborative approach to safeguarding in the community.

4.4 Through our communication strategy we have ensured safeguarding has had a consistent presence on our internal and external platforms. We have promoted learning events and key messages on behalf of the Safeguarding Boards and we have coordinated with the County Council to ensure a consistent approach to key dates and themes such as CSE awareness day.

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

- 4.5 We have a robust system for ensuring grant and commissioned services have suitable safeguarding policy and procedure before committing funding.
- 4.6 In addition to our contract monitoring we have also asked two of our larger service providers Parasol and Aspire to complete a safeguarding self-assessment. The audit has helped the organisations see where improvements to safeguarding need to be made. The action plan allows Oxford City Council to monitor changes and operational effectiveness in safeguarding policy.
- 4.7 To improve this standard and meet the blue threshold for 2018 we will require all our commissioned services to complete a safeguarding self- assessment and submit an action plan to address any shortfalls.

- **Performance & Resource Management**

- 4.8 This year we have provided 15 safeguarding awareness briefings to City Council Staff. In addition 5 have been held at Oxford Direct Services. Staff are required to attend this training every 3 years. We have reached approximately 400 employees or 30% of the workforce and have 100% compliance for new starters.
- 4.9 All staff are required to update their safeguarding training every 3 years; records are held with HR and reminders are sent to services heads. Participation continues to grow as the number of overdue training has dramatically decreased. Volunteers are also invited to attend the internal safeguarding awareness sessions alongside paid employees of the council.
- 4.10 This year Oxford City Council and Oxford Direct Services will continue to work together to deliver a consistent safeguarding message and ensure there is coordination from the safeguarding boards to ODS and throughout the districts.
- 4.11 We completed a safeguarding Audit of our Youth Ambition Services and have incorporated the learning from this audit into our Safeguarding Action Plan.

- **Outcomes for, and Experiences of, People Who Use Statutory Services**

- 4.12 Oxford City Council has helped older people in Barton by promoting and referring to the 'Get Heard' advocacy program. The programs helps older people get to appointments and offer an appointment buddy service. The buddy service helps people remember what was said at medical appointments by going over details, talking it over, making lists and organising follow ups.
- 4.13 In 2017 Oxford City Council supported 20 Syrian families through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme; this includes 43 adults and 45 children.
- 4.14 In 2018 the Council as part of the Thames Valley BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee) Project successfully recruited for a new post of VAWG Strategic officer. The Project is managed by representatives from the Office of

the Police and Crime Commissioner, local authorities and specialist support services. The Project was developed to assess, improve and better coordinate the multi-agency response to Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in BAMER communities across the Thames Valley Region. Funding was secured through the Home Office VAWG Service Transformation Fund and the DCLG Domestic Abuse Fund for a VAWG Strategic Officer with a specialist in BAMER communities.

The key areas of focus for 2018/19 will include:

- Implementing 'MyConcern' the new central reporting system for safeguarding concerns.
- Providing training for all users and line managers regarding their reporting and monitoring responsibilities.
- Creating a better understanding of safeguarding challenges in the housing sector and embedding a safeguarding culture.
- Reaching young carers; ensuring all identified young carers are referred to support services; increasing awareness of the challenges faced by carers and increased participation at young carer's professionals meetings.
- Continuing with the child exploitation sub group work
- Communication strategy to include collaborations with partners e.g. Thames Valley Police lead campaigns - Operation Stronghold (campaign to reduce the impact of drug use and dealing in Oxford City centre), and Hidden Harm Campaign which aims to raise awareness about undetected and unreported abuse of a person or people.
- Implementing the ideas of restorative practice, (a term used to describe a way of behaving which helps to build and maintain healthy relationships, resolve difficulties and repair harm where there has been conflict), across all safeguarding practises.

5. Risks and Challenges

- 5.1 With new reporting procedures about to be launched and up dated policies and guidelines we need to ensure that:
- There is a clear communication regarding MyConcern and the new procedure for reporting safeguarding concerns.
 - All staff acquire log in details to the system and register for use; all staff must attend a training session or access training details on line.
 - Our training addresses local and national concerns.
 - We conduct sufficient horizon scanning and predict impending trends and changes to government priorities and funding opportunities.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Council has committed within the budget to make an annual contribution towards the running costs of the OSCB of £10,000 and the OSAB of £10,000.

The City Council has two active trainers who contribute to the OSCB training pool and one for the OSAB training pool.

6.2 All work identified in this report can be funded from within the Policy and Partnerships budget.

7. Legal issues

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

8. Equalities impact

8.1 Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Policy is attached as an appendix

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Background Papers:

1 Oxford City Council Section 11 Self- Assessment 2017

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