

EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

– 26 JUNE 2026

JTAI (Joint Target Area Inspection) INSPECTION REPORT of the multi-agency response to child sexual abuse in the family environment in Oxfordshire.

Report by Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Education & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to

- 1.1 Note the findings of the JTAI inspection and the partnership's identified strength and areas for development.
- 1.2 Receive a progress update (6-12 months) on: Implementation of the partnership action plan and impact and outcomes for children

2. Executive Summary

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) is the statutory multi-agency partnership responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements across Oxfordshire are effective in protecting children and young people and promoting their welfare. Operating in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the partnership brings together statutory safeguarding partners, the local authority, health, and police, alongside education and wider partners to deliver coordinated, high-quality safeguarding practice.

OSCP provides strategic leadership and oversight of safeguarding across the county, ensuring that partners work effectively together, that learning drives improvement, and that children and young people are seen, safe, and heard. Each agency retains individual accountability for its own safeguarding practice, while sharing collective accountability for the effectiveness of the multi-agency system.

A Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) undertaken in February 2026 examined the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to child sexual abuse in the family environment in Oxfordshire.

The inspection found that when children are at evident risk of being sexually abused in their families the partnership provides a strong and effective response, with timely investigations, high-quality child-centred practice, and access to specialist support.

Key Issues

The inspection identified key areas for improvement, including:

- Earlier identification of risk where there is no disclosure
- More consistent information sharing across agencies
- Strengthening of multi-agency risk assessment and safety planning
- Greater involvement of probation in safeguarding arrangements
- Improved use of data to understand prevalence and risk

These findings align with national learning, particularly the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report "*I wanted them all to notice*", which highlights the need for professionals to recognise and respond to non-verbal indicators of abuse.

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (OSCP) has developed a multi-agency action plan to address these areas, building on existing strengths in practice and governance.

The progress of the actions will be reviewed through the governance of the OSCP with accountability resting with the Lead Safeguarding Partners.

3. Local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are the collective responsibility of chief officers in the County Council, the Integrated Care Board and Thames Valley Police as set out on Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026
4. These three senior safeguarding partners agree ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services for children; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents. The arrangement is referred to as the "Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP)".
5. The full report can be found [here](#).

Corporate Policies and Priorities

6. The report outlines the Safeguarding Children Partnership's findings of the recent inspection.

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The report does not request any additional funding or staffing resources, and there is no requirement for the Council to commit further financial resources to the Partnership beyond those already approved. Delivery of the partnership action plan is expected to be managed within existing resources and governance arrangements.

Comments checked by:

Jane Billington, Strategic Finance Business Partner,
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Legal Implications

8. S20 of the Children Act 2004 provides for Joint Area Targeted Inspections. S22 of the aforementioned Act provides that the Local Authority is to cooperate with such inspections.

Craig Cochrane, Principal Solicitor, Child Care Team, Law and Governance,
email: craig.cochrane@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Staff Implications

9. There are no additional staff resources being requested by way of this report for the work outlined in this inspection.

Comments checked by Michelle Higgs, Strategic People Partner
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Equality & Inclusion Implications

10. There are no additional equality & inclusion implications.

Sustainability Implications

11. The Partnership have moved much of its work to a virtual environment, reducing travel congestion, and no longer prints any materials for Partnership meetings or training sessions, instead making these available electronically. It has also reduced printing & design costs by making more things, plain text on the OSCP website

Lisa Lyons
Director of Children Services and Chair of OSCP

Annex: JTAI – CSAFE document

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