

Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

16 April 2026

Oxfordshire County Council Motion on Mental Health

Report by Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to:
 - a) **NOTE** the request from the Health and Wellbeing Board for the Committee to undertake scrutiny of adults and children's mental health services as outlined in the wording of the motion detailed in paragraph 3.
 - b) **AGREE** that the Committee will continue its scrutiny of adults and children's mental health as outlined in its work programme, and that it will report back within its annual report to Council, details of the adults and children's mental health scrutiny undertaken

Executive Summary

2. At its meeting on 9 December 2025, Oxfordshire County Council passed a motion requesting that the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) invite the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) to investigate and report on how mental health services provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and wider system partners are addressing the rising prevalence and impact of poor mental health among adults and children in Oxfordshire.
3. The wording of the motion agreed was as follows:

"This Council being deeply concerned by the impact of poor mental health on adults and children in the County asks the Health and Wellbeing Board to request the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate and report back to them and to the County Council on how Mental Health services provided by Oxford Health and other organisations are tackling this issue.

Such an investigation of issues needs to include addressing accessibility to services including:

- *Prevention*
- *Assessment*
- *Therapeutic support*
- *Medication*
- *Emergency intervention such as "sectioning"*

- *Inpatient beds*

How these issues impact on other public services such Community Safety, Public Health, Housing, Schools, Fire and Rescue and the Police also needs to be assessed and understood. Most of all poor mental health impacts on individuals, families, and communities around the County and this must be addressed.

Council requests that the outcome of the investigation be sent to the appropriate Secretaries of State.”

4. This report recommends that the Committee notes this request and responds to full council via the HOSC annual report.

Financial Implications

5. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by: Drew Hodgson - Strategic Finance Business Partner – Resources, FRCS and TDCE

Legal Implications

6. Under Part 6.1B s11.of Oxfordshire County Council’s Constitution, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee ‘may hold enquiries and investigations’.
7. Responsibility for establishing these enquiries and investigations is, under Part 6.1B s. 6 ‘as they may determine’. A request from the Health and Wellbeing Board does not automatically mean such a request will be granted.

Comments by:

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April 2026.