

Divisions Affected - All

Cabinet – 21 October 2025

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) Annual Report

Report by Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. **Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to** note the annual report of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership senior safeguarding partners and to consider the key messages.

Executive Summary

2. This paper highlights findings from the Partnership's annual report on the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Oxfordshire.

Background

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.
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. They work with relevant partners through the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The arrangement is referred to as the "Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP)".
5. The report can be accessed in full on the [OSCP website](#).

Key Issues

6. The OSCP Annual Report sets out the safeguarding challenges in Oxfordshire. The report shows the need to improve practice with respect to the themes of: (1) Neglect (2) Child exploitation and (3) Effectiveness of Multi-agency arrangements
7. There are key messages for system leaders to bring a collective focus to:

Tackling Neglect of children in the family home by supporting those families who are not yet meeting all the needs of their children.

Minimising risks to children outside the home to ensure we have a system wide approach to keeping children safe from exploitation and harm outside the home.

8. In the last year there were two serious incident notifications submitted to National Panel, resulting in Rapid Reviews. One of these reviews did not lead to a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) and this was agreed with National Panel. At present, one CSPR has concluded, and the publication will be this month. Eight key recommendations, along with priority areas for partnership-wide reflection and learning, are actively being advanced across the partnership. A learning event was held with the Independent Reviewer in September with front line practitioners to share the learning from this review. Learning summaries have been produced to ensure key findings and lessons arising from the rapid reviews conducted by the partnership. These summaries are available on the OSCP website to facilitate the dissemination of learning and ensure accessibility for all partners.
9. The repeat safeguarding themes identified in reviews last year are still current and continue to be a priority for the partnership this year. These are:
 - Children with complex mental health/emotional needs
 - Limited access to universal mental and physical support for children not in school (electively home educated)
 - Assessing risks and providing support for the whole family
 - Recognising and responding to the vulnerabilities of babies and adolescents
 - Understanding the roles of fathers/male carers and extended family members

Corporate Policies and Priorities

10. The report outlines the Safeguarding Children Partnership's priorities, the learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, the outcomes of quality assurance work and the summarised findings with respect to the unexpected child deaths in Oxfordshire. The report supports the vision, values, objectives and strategic priorities in the County Council's Corporate Plan (see [Corporate Plan](#)).

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. There is no requirement for the council to commit any further financial resources towards the Partnership beyond what is currently committed.

Comments checked by: Lewis Gosling – Assistant Finance Business Partner
(Children's Social Care)

Legal Implications

12. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 is a Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance document which requires safeguarding partners to publish an annual report. The statutory guidance document should be complied with unless exceptional circumstances arise.
13. The intention is to 'bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken' by the safeguarding partners.
14. The guidance is issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and other legislative provisions. Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 requires local authorities in their social services functions to act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State.

Comments checked by:

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Annexes:

Annex 1: OSCP Annual Report

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