

CABINET
DATE 21st OCTOBER 2025

**OXFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL
REPORT 2024-25**

Report by Karen Fuller

RECOMMENDATION

1. **CABINET is RECOMMENDED to** note the findings of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) Annual Report 2024-25. It is a requirement of statutory guidance that this report is shared with the Local Authority hosting the Safeguarding Board in their area.

Executive Summary

2. The Report highlights the work of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board strategic partnership group during 2024-25. The report is shared with the County Council as required under the Care Act 2014 guidance, for the County Council to review and consider.

Background

3. The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) is a multi-agency partnership dedicated to protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. This annual report covers OSAB's activities and progress from April 2024 to March 2025.
4. The report can be accessed in full on the [OSAB Website](#).
5. Strategic Focus - OSAB concentrated on four priorities: improving frontline practice, preventing abuse, strengthening quality assurance, and learning from experience. Most planned actions were completed on time, with ongoing work tracked.
6. Subgroup Highlights - Policy & Practice: Updated safeguarding policies and launched the new Safeguarding Adults Consideration (SAC) Framework to guide professional decision-making. Quality Assurance: Monitored a rise in safeguarding concerns (reflecting increased awareness), improved outcomes for adults, and enhanced data-driven decision-making. Engagement: Amplified the voices of people with lived experience, raised public awareness, and contributed to a new Domestic Abuse Strategy. Case Reviews: Conducted reviews of serious cases and deaths among homeless people, with lessons shared widely and national recognition for good practice.

7. Partner Contributions -
 - Oxfordshire County Council: Improved response times and consistency in safeguarding enquiries.
 - NHS: Enhanced referral processes, staff training, and information sharing.
 - Police: Established a Harm Reduction Unit for vulnerable adults and improved information sharing.
 - Fire & Rescue: Integrated safeguarding into home visits and co-founded a hoarding support group.
 - District Councils: Strengthened safeguarding in housing and community safety.
 - Voluntary Sector: Ensured service users' voices were heard and promoted awareness.
8. Looking Ahead - Priorities for 2025–26:
 - Ensure lessons and resources reach frontline staff.
 - Establish a formal risk register.
 - Strengthen links with children's safeguarding.
 - Focus on prevention and early intervention.

Key Issues

9. Learning from Reviews: Reviews highlighted the need for professional curiosity, for a more flexible approach to engagement with hard-to-reach individuals, for better information sharing, and for more timely interventions.
10. The OSAB member organisations have responded by improving systems for flagging repeat concerns and doing more to involve all relevant agencies in key meetings about a person are involved in meetings.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

11. The report outlines the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board priorities, the learning from statutory case reviews, the outcomes of quality assurance work and the work of partner agencies in the protection of adults in Oxfordshire. The report supports the vision, values, objectives and strategic priorities in the County Council's Corporate Plan (see [Corporate Plan](#)).

Financial Implications

The financial implications section should be completed by a member of the finance service

12. There are no financial implications.

Comments checked by:

Stephen Rowles, Strategic Finance Business Partner,
Stephen.rowles@oxfordshire.gov.uk (Finance)

[Legal Implications]

The legal implications section should be completed by a member of the legal service

13. The requirements of the Care Act 2014 are that the Safeguarding Adults Board must produce an annual report setting out:

- what it has done during that year to achieve its objective,
- what it has done during that year to implement its strategy,
- what each member has done during that year to implement the strategy,
- the findings of the safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) arranged by it which have concluded in that year, details of any SARs which are ongoing at the end of that year, what it has done during that year to implement the findings of its SARs, and, where it decides not to implement a finding of its SARs, the reasons for its decision.

The Care Act also requires that a copy of the annual report is to be sent to each of the statutory partners.

Comments checked by:

Anita Bradley, Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer
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Staff Implications

13. There are currently no staff implications for this report.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

14. The Safeguarding Adults Board in its planning, monitoring and evaluating of its work and the work of its partners, ensures equality and diversity issues are being appropriately considered from the outset.

Sustainability Implications

15. There are no sustainability implications.

Risk Management

16. There are no risks or opportunities for the County Council highlighted in the report.

Consultations

17. The content of the report has been shared and consulted upon with all member organisations of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Karen Fuller
Director of Adult Social Care

Annex 1: OSAB Annual Report

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October 2025