



OSCIB
Oxfordshire
Safeguarding
Children Board

Annual Report 2021-22

Derek Benson, OSCIB Independent Chair

Oxfordshire multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

Our vision

We want to keep children in Oxfordshire as safe as possible by making sure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding through training, learning and local resources.

- Providing leadership and oversight
- Petitioning the DfE on safeguarding messages from 'Serious case reviews' e.g. insufficient placements
- Checking safeguarding standards set in 'Section-11' of the Children's Act
- Taking on the most serious issues for change e.g. exploitation and neglect
- Training for over 13,000 workers and volunteers in safeguarding



Stephen Chandler
Chief Executive of
Oxfordshire County Council



James Kent
Integrated Care System Lead,
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire,
and Berkshire West Clinical
Commissioning Group



John Campbell
Chief Constable,
Thames Valley Police

Oxfordshire's senior safeguarding partners.



Quality assurance work tells us:

- **partners have a full picture** of the safeguarding system for children across the local authorities, police and health including emerging issues e.g., concerns regarding mental
- **progress is evidenced:** use of new resources; escalation of issues to strategic
- **there are a number of repeat messages** which need senior leaders to reflect upon to deliver change in particular in terms of neglect and child exploitation

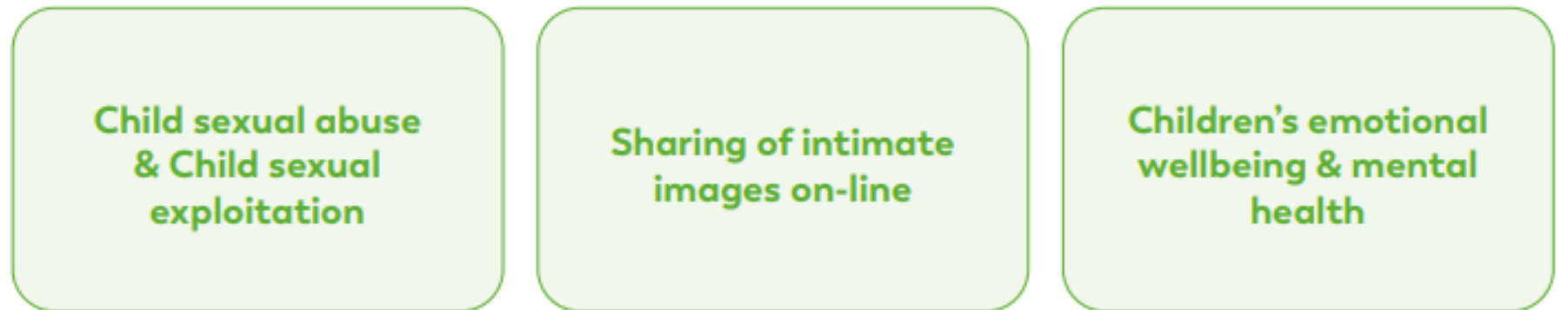
Our current priorities for system change are right – we just need more traction on making change happen.

We need to work better as one system. We all need to think about how we work together based on what we have learnt.

Case review work tells us we need to focus on:



However, there are new repeat factors from the more recent reviews:



Our learning: areas for improvement

Make sure that vulnerable children are seen. Covid has taught us that any decision not to meet with a vulnerable family in person must be a shared one

Develop a clear understanding of trauma informed practice across your services and adopt that approach to working with children

Develop and invest in plans to keep children close to home by expanding local residential and foster care provision to meet children's needs.

Ensure rigorous commissioning and quality assurance of placements for the children we care for

Maintain oversight of how we record and share information about children. Set high standards.

Ensure greater understanding of the range of **mental health and wellbeing** support for adolescents

Priorities

Neglect

Child exploitation

Keeping children safe in school



Take-away messages

Ensure that early help is led and resourced at a senior level in line with the Children and Young People's Plan

Ensure that your organisation is doing everything it can to support the priorities for neglect, child exploitation and keeping children safe in school.

Make sure capacity issues and demand in your organisation are known across the partnership so we can tackle them together as a whole system