

PROTOCOL IN SUPPORT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD, THE OXFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (OSCB) AND THE OXFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (OSAB)

Background

1. This paper sets out a proposed framework and protocol within which to secure effective joint-working between the Health and Wellbeing Board, Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board. It also refers to the relationship between the safeguarding boards and other partnership forums in Oxfordshire.
2. This protocol sets out the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Boards, the inter-relationships between them in terms of safeguarding and well-being and the means by which we will secure effective co-ordination and coherence between the Boards.
3. Whilst currently there is no statutory requirement to secure a formal relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the safeguarding boards there are clear benefits to doing so and there is guidance steering in this direction that may become a requirement. The annual reports of both safeguarding Boards are already reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Oxfordshire Health and Well-Being Board

4. The Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board is the principal structure in Oxfordshire with responsibility for promoting the health and wellbeing of the people of the county. It is a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.
5. Board members are expected to collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services from the NHS and local councils in the future.
6. The Health and Wellbeing Board has strategic influence over commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care through the development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This is based on a shared understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of the community through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), developed by involving all key stakeholders. This will include recommendations for joint commissioning and integrating services across health and care.
7. The Health and Wellbeing Board strengthens democratic legitimacy by involving democratically elected representatives and patient representatives in commissioning decisions alongside commissioners across health and social

care. The Board also provides a forum for challenge, discussion, and the involvement of local people.

8. Through undertaking the JSNA and agreeing strategic priorities, the Board will drive local commissioning of health care, social care and public health and create a more effective and responsive local health and care system. Other services that impact on health and wellbeing such as housing and education provision will also be addressed.

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB)

9. The key objectives of the OSCB as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' are:

- To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the well-being of children;
- To ensure the effectiveness of that work

10. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

11. A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

12. The role of OSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The OSCB is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in constituent agencies.

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Boards (OSAB)

13. Safeguarding Adult Boards are now statutory bodies following the implementation of the Care Act 2014. The OSCB is already well established and has operated within the framework promoted by 'No Secrets' which was published by the Department for Health and the Home Office in March 2000 and by 'Safeguarding Adults' which was published by the then Association of Directors of Social Services in October 2005.

14. The focus of the work of Safeguarding Adults Boards is 'vulnerable' adults. The forms of abuse which the Board aims to prevent and address are: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial or material abuse, neglect or acts of omission, discriminatory abuse.

15. The role of the OSAB is to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place in both the commissioning and provision of services to vulnerable adults

by individual agencies and to ensure the effective interagency working in this respect.

16. The OSAB has identified agreed objectives and priorities for its work which include clear policy, procedural and practice arrangements, mechanisms to secure coordination of activities between agencies, the provision of training and workforce development in support of safeguarding and quality assurance and performance management arrangements to test the effectiveness of safeguarding and the impact of the Board.

The need for effective communication and engagement between the Boards

17. Safeguarding is everyone's business. As such, all key strategic plans whether they be formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for change and improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that all people of Leicestershire are safe and their well-being is protected. The two safeguarding boards have a responsibility to scrutinise and challenge these arrangements.
18. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a key commissioning strategy for the delivery of services to children and adults across Oxfordshire and so it is important that in drawing up, delivering and evaluating the strategy there is effective interchange between the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the two safeguarding boards.
19. Specifically there need to be formal interfaces between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the safeguarding board at key points including:
 - The needs analyses that drive the formulation of the annual Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Safeguarding Boards' Business Plans. This needs to be reciprocal in nature ensuring both that safeguarding boards' needs analyses are fed into the JSNA and that the outcomes of the JSNA are fed back into safeguarding boards' planning;
 - Ensuring each Board is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the Health and Well Being Strategy and the individual Board Business Plans, and raising significant emerging issues, in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge;
 - Annually reporting evaluations of performance on Plans to provide the opportunity for reciprocal scrutiny and challenge and to enable Boards to feed any improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years' strategies and plans.
20. The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the Boards can therefore be summarised as follows:
 - Securing an integrated approach to the JSNA, ensuring comprehensive safeguarding data analysis in the JSNA, in line with Working Together guidance

- Aligning the work of the OSCB business plan and OSAB Strategic Plan with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and related priority setting.
- Ensuring safeguarding is “everyone’s business”, reflected in the public health agenda and related determinant of health policies and strategies.
- Evaluating the impact of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy on safeguarding outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes
- Identifying a coordinated approach to performance management, transformational change and commissioning
- Cross-board scrutiny and challenge and “holding to account”: the Wellbeing Board for embedding safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Boards for overall performance and contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Arrangements to secure coordination between the Boards.

21. In order to secure the opportunities identified above it is proposed that the following arrangements would be put in place to ensure effective co-ordination and coherence in the work of the three Boards. The role of the OSCB and OSAB in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board would be one of equal partners underpinned by this protocol.

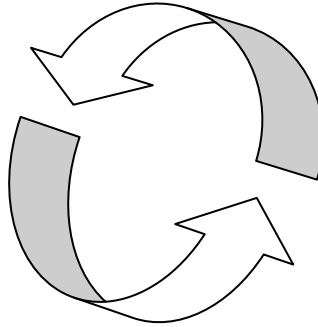
- Between September and November each year the Independent Chairs of the two Safeguarding Boards to present to the Oxfordshire Health and Well-Being Board their Annual Reports outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This to be supplemented by a position statement on the Boards’ performance in the current financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the Health and Well-Being Board to scrutinise and challenge the performance of the Boards, to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Oxfordshire Health and Well-Being Strategy.
- By March, the Oxfordshire Health and Well-Being Board to present to the safeguarding boards the refreshed JSNA that will form the basis of updated priorities and plans.
- By June, the Health and Wellbeing Board to present the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy to enable the safeguarding boards to scrutinise and challenge performance of the Health and Wellbeing Board and to ensure that their refreshed Business Plans appropriately reflect relevant priorities set in the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- In July the Boards will share their refreshed Plans for the financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

Relationships between the Safeguarding Boards and other partnership forums

22. In the context of our aim to ensure that 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business' it is intended that there should be effective co-ordination and coherence in relation to safeguarding and well-being between the two safeguarding boards and the key strategic partnership forums in the county, including the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership and those reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This could be achieved in two ways:
- Formally sharing annual plans during the formulation stages to enable co-ordination and coherence where there are business overlaps – for example domestic violence features as a priority for both safeguarding boards, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Communities Partnership. The purpose of this sharing will be to secure clarity of roles, responsibilities and purpose, to avoid duplication and to prevent gaps.
 - Where appropriate, to ensure that there is cross-Board representation to secure on-going communication. This already exists for some groups (for example, there are members of the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Partnership Board on both safeguarding boards) but this needs to be formalised across all relevant groups.
23. At present there is a formal protocol between the OSCB and the Children and Young People Partnership Board (CYPPB). However, the relationship between the two Boards could be further strengthened and was identified as an area of possible improvement in the recent Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after, care leavers and the Review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding children board.
24. There is work underway to review and improve the Children's Trust (CYPPB), including the relationship with the OSCB. As part of this, the existing protocol will also be reviewed and updated as appropriate.
25. More formal protocols between OSAB and the Adult Health and Social Care Board, and Joint Management Groups overseeing the delivery of commissioning strategies and pooled budgets will also be proposed and developed as appropriate.
26. Similarly the relationship between the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and the two safeguarding boards will be reviewed and formal protocols developed as appropriate.
27. The role of Oxfordshire County Council Scrutiny Committees in scrutinising the performance of safeguarding boards and being consulted on policy changes and related service design and commissioning intentions will remain unchanged.
28. The diagram below summarises the relationships set out in this protocol.

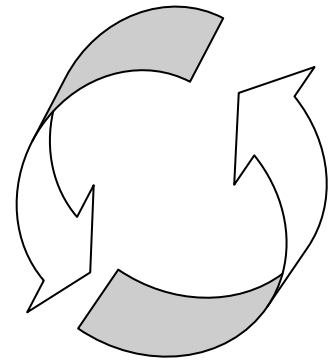
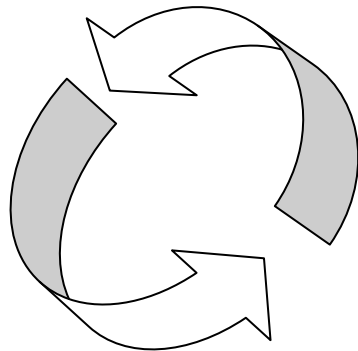
OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Strategic vision, direction, objectives and outcome setting and oversight.



OXFORDSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP BOARD, SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND OTHER PARTNERSHIP FORUMS

Delivery of strategic objectives, localised monitoring of outcomes.



RECOMMENDATION

29. The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to agree the principles and further work required as set out in this paper to formalise and improve the relationships between the Health and Wellbeing Board and two safeguarding Boards, and to delegate responsibility to the Director for Children's Services and the Director for Social and Community Services to work with the respective Chairs of the Safeguarding Boards to take this forward.