

Division(s): N/A

Health and Wellbeing Board.

30 January 2020

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board – Annual Reports

Report by Director for Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Board is requested to note the annual report and provide any comments.

Executive Summary

2. Local Safeguarding Children Boards were set up under the Children Act 2004 in order that agencies co-operate with each other to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The Oxfordshire Board is led by an independent chair and includes representation from all six local authorities in Oxfordshire, as well as the National Probation service, the Community Rehabilitation Company, Police, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, schools and Further Education colleges, the military, the voluntary sector and lay members. In April 2019 these arrangements changed to reflect the requirements of the DfE guidance 'Working Together 2018' however these reports relate to the financial year 2018/19.
3. This paper presents the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual (OSCB) Report.
4. The OSCB Annual Report sets out report sets out the challenges that the safeguarding partners have faced in terms of the ongoing demand on the system with neglect being a key feature; the need to keep children safe in full-time education and the contextual safeguarding risks that exist for children outside of their home environment. The report also highlights a number of examples of good practice including work around child exploitation.

OSCB Annual Report

5. The key purpose of the **OSCB Annual Report** is to assess the impact of the Board's work in 2018/19 on:
 - service quality and effectiveness
 - safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in Oxfordshire.
6. The report evaluates performance against the priorities that are set out in the Business Plan for the year and against other statutory functions that the LSCB must undertake.

7. The report sets out the challenges that the safeguarding partners have faced in terms of the ongoing demand on the system with neglect being a key feature; the need to keep children safe in full-time education and the contextual safeguarding risks that exist for children outside of their home environment. The Board has also been concerned with supporting transgender children; improving specialist placements for those in care and those with serious mental health needs as well as supporting good access for all children with emotional and mental health needs to CAMHS help.
8. There are many good examples of safeguarding work within the partnership. Partners have made good progress to tackle child exploitation. Drug exploitation in particular is an area of growing concern. The board has set up a partnership structure and screening tool to identify and support children. Partners have increased the uptake of multi-agency chronologies that ensure that there is a full picture of a child's life, that joint working makes a difference. Partners have got a tighter grip of the information on those children on reduced timetables, excluded from school or not attending and board members have met with headteachers to get sign up to keeping children safe in education.
9. As a result of OSCB work: Thames Valley Police reported an increase in uptake by schools of 'Operation Encompass' from 48% to 94%. (This system alerts schools if the child has been in the home when a domestic abuse incident has taken place in the family home the evening/ night before school). Children's Social care has developed a practice handbook to set out expectations and guidance for workers with respect to good supervision and the inclusion of children's views. The Clinical Commissioning Group has worked with GP practices to develop improvement plans for safeguarding work. Oxford Health NHS FT's recording systems include prompts to include and flag safeguarding information.
10. In 2018/19 the OSCB delivered over 150 free safeguarding training and learning events plus online learning. The training reached over 11,000 members of the Oxfordshire workforce:
 - ✓ 5,017 multi-agency practitioners undertook face-face training
 - ✓ 6,497 multi-agency practitioners have undertaken e-learningThe OSCB ran a wide range of training to cover not just core safeguarding and early help but also working with fathers, supporting LGBTQ+ children and young people as well as digital safety.
11. The OSCB delivered termly updates over 4000 members of the workforce and e-bulletins to educational settings across the county. In the coming year the OSCB will launch and update website and twitter feed. Learning and improvement events for approximately 150 delegates each time have covered:
 - Child drug exploitation: identifying and responding to it
 - Multi agency chronologies: understanding how to use them and why
 - Contextual safeguarding: what it means and how to work with it

Financial and Staff Implications

12. None noted

Equalities Implications

13. None noted

Deputy Director for Safeguarding, Lara Patel

Background papers:

Contact Officer:

Tan Lea
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