



The **Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board** is an independent body which co-ordinates what is done by agencies to safeguard & promote the welfare of children and ensures that agencies are fulfilling their role in this.

For example:

- Agreeing policies and procedures on safeguarding
- Organising and delivering FREE training on safeguarding
- Challenges and asks questions about how agencies are keeping children safe
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews

Allegations against Those in a Position of Trust

If someone makes an allegation about a volunteer or professional it must be reported to a senior manager/ safeguarding lead within your agency. You or your agency lead person must also contact the **Designated Officer** (formally known as Local Authority Designated Officer – LADO) straight away on **01865 810603**.

The Designated Officer will ensure the correct steps are being followed and advise you on any further actions that need to be taken.

Not happy with the outcome of a referral made or how the referral was handled? Escalation / whistleblowing policy for Child Protection or Child Welfare Concerns in Oxfordshire: www.oxfordshirescb.proceduresonline.com

Are you worried about a child?

If you have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of harm or neglect, your first point of contact is the designated member of staff with responsibility for child protection within your agency. It is your responsibility to find out who that person is.

If for any reason you are unable to seek advice or support from your designated staff member, please contact your Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) straight away. They will advise you on the appropriate course of action.

If a child / young person makes a disclosure of abuse or neglect to you:

Explain to the child that you will share this information with a senior member of staff in order to help them.

Listen carefully to what the child is saying and take it seriously.

Reassure the child that they have done the right thing and tell them that you believe them.

Give the child time to talk. Do not probe or ask leading questions - investigation is not your responsibility.

Do not promise to keep secrets. All allegations must be acted upon.

Record what has been said as soon as possible after the conversation and ensure the **MASH TEAM** are notified as soon as is practical.

Remember: Do not confront the alleged abuser and please ensure that information is kept confidential and only shared with people who need to know.

For new allegations where there is an immediate safeguarding concern please call the:

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub MASH:
0345 050 7666

Open cases/ no names consultations

The Locality and Community Support Service (LLCS) has been created as part of the Oxfordshire County Councils, Childrens Services integration programme to support partner agencies across Oxfordshire.

LCSS North: 0345 241 2703

LCSS Central: 0345 241 2705

LCSS South: 0345 241 2608

When to contact LCSS:

- Have emerging concerns for a child that does not require an immediate response
- Need support or guidance with an Early Help Assessment or TAF

If LCSS are supporting you with a family and immediately safeguarding concerns arise, you must call MASH immediately.

The Kingfisher Team

Are you worried someone is trying to sexually exploit you or someone you know? Please talk to someone you can trust, Kingfisher team: **01865 309196**

For information, Policies, Interagency Procedures, Toolkits or to book onto training please visit www.oscb.org.uk