

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board



Newsletter

Issue 30: March 2019



Welcome to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board quarterly newsletter.

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1. Welcome from the OSCB Chair

It is my pleasure to provide an introduction to this newsletter. We hope that you find the content useful. As ever, we welcome feedback and if you have any, I would encourage you to contact Carole Kinnell. Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at how we communicate with you all. This will include improvements to the website, looking at more regular and shorter briefings about key messages, introducing a Twitter feed and so on, so any thoughts and ideas that you can feed in really will help to shape how we communicate with you.



Some of you will be aware that the way the OSCB functions is changing, with greater oversight and accountability to the so-called Big Three of the County Council, the CCG and the Police. They do want to maintain much of what they and others feel is working, so the current Board will remain, although there will be changes to the current Executive and it is proposed that the Area Safeguarding Groups cease to exist. These arrangements are due to be submitted to the Department of Education at the end of April and then we will look to implement them very soon after that.

Now that I have completed almost all of my initial meetings with Board Members, it is my intention to start to get out and see more of our Safeguarding Work in other agencies, including the Hospitals and other Health Services, so I look forward to meeting some of you soon. What I have welcomed in my relatively short time is that some of you have written to me via the LSCB office to raise issues directly with me. Please do feel able to continue to do so and I am utterly committed to ensuring you get a personal reply from me.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kinnell', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Chair of Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board

2. Board News

This is the first of what I plan will be a series of short communications from myself as Independent Chair of Oxfordshire's Safeguarding Children's Board.

I felt compelled to write following my recent experience of Practice Week in Oxfordshire and for two principal reasons. Firstly, I was blown away by the quality of the work that I witnessed and the staff and managers that I met during my two days "at the coalface". During this time I had the opportunity to:

- Witness a Family Group Conference where a number of the family members did not have a great deal of English
- Participate in a case mapping exercise of a bit of a stuck case
- Meet several frontline social workers and managers
- Visit an additional needs unit within a Mainstream school
- Observe some direct work with a young man at risk of Drug Exploitation

I very much enjoyed practice week and was immensely impressed by the high levels of commitment and morale evident in the workforce and the thoughtful, considered answers that people gave to my questions. I simply met some good people, doing good work with a good heart in challenging circumstances.

I also heard some of your concerns, including the widespread anxiety around the Criminal Exploitation of Children and Young People. This truly is one of the challenges of our time. I and my colleagues have come away with some of the challenges and difficulties faced by the workforce that are set out in the detailed feedback that I would encourage people to read.

Secondly, I was struck that there was a bit of a gap in some people's knowledge about what the Safeguarding Board do and I came away with my own personal mission of narrowing the gap a little between the work of the Board and you folks working away to protect, support, treat and help the children of Oxfordshire and their families.

These are interesting times for the OSCB at present. Last year, the government issued a new version of Working Together. This was not simply a revision of the guidance, but ushered in a new approach to the leading and coordinating of local multi-agency safeguarding. From now on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements must be jointly led by the Chief Executive of the County Council, the Chief Executive of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police.

As often is the case (certainly from my experience since I became chair), Oxfordshire are well ahead of the game in being very close to publishing their new arrangements which was one of the key items on the recent Board agenda. One of the proposed changes will see the Area Safeguarding Groups coming to an end. However, we are very keen, through emails such as this and other mechanisms that we will set out soon in a Communications Plan, to keep people informed about the work of the Board and key safeguarding messages and briefings – more in my next communication.

In addition, we looked at a current Serious Case Review that is very close to completion and received a report on Safeguarding in Education. We also looked at the whole issue of the significant number of people dropping out of, or not turning up for, Safeguarding Courses that they have signed up for. The Board agreed that we will look to charge agencies for staff who drop out of Courses at very short notice without sufficient cause.

Any feedback about this short briefing or suggestions about things I might cover in the future would be most welcome. In the mean-time know that I and my fellow Board Members really do understand the pressures, stress and challenges of working in public

service in 2019 and we are committed to do everything we can to promote and encourage the circumstances that facilitate good multi-agency safeguarding practice with children and their families in Oxfordshire

3. OSCB Training

OSCB training courses with available places March – July 2019

Domestic Abuse: Basic Awareness (module 1) booked via the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adult Board <https://booking.osab.co.uk/events-list>

Wednesday 27 March 2019 (13:30 - 16:30)

Venue:

East Oxford Children's Centre, The Union, Collins Street, Oxfordshire County Council

This is a universal course suitable for all practitioners and volunteers that come into contact with the public in Oxfordshire.

The course will cover:

- Types of domestic abuse including coercive control legislation
- Understanding the dynamics of domestic abuse
- Sign and indicators - cycle of change/cycle of abuse
- Signposting
- Perpetrators – typologies, who are they?

The following courses can be booked via <https://training.oscb.org.uk/>

Early Help Assessment	16.04.19	09:30 – 13:15	Barton, Oxford
Sexual Abuse Workshop	13.05.19	09:30 – 12:30	County Hall, Oxford
Female Genital Mutilation	15.05.19	09:30 – 13:00	County Hall, Oxford
Domestic Abuse Pathway for Young People – Targeted course for Education	20.05.19	09:30 – 13:30	Banbury
Early Help Assessment	21.05.19	09:30 – 13:15	Didcot
Domestic Abuse Pathway for Young People – Targeted course for Education	23.05.19	09:30 – 13:30	The Union, Oxford
Domestic Abuse Pathway for Young People – Targeted course for Education	04.06.19	09:30 – 13:30	Milton Park, Abingdon

Working with Fathers and other Male Carers	24.06.19	09:30 – 16:00	County Hall, Oxford
Early Help Assessment	28.06.19	09:30 – 13:15	Barton, Oxford
Early Help Assessment	16.07.19	09:30 – 13:15	Barton, Oxford

See the OSCB Training brochure for full details

*****Please note*****

Notification of charges for late cancellation or non-attendance

As of 1st April 2019, the OSCB will be implementing their charging policy for late cancellation (within 6 days of the course date) or non-attendance on courses, as per the terms and conditions on the training portal. All registered users will have agreed to these terms and conditions during the registration process.

Demand for OSCB courses and events is high with the majority operating waiting lists. Over the last quarter a total of 237 delegates failed to attend courses on which they had booked a place, equating to a loss of £11850. This is an increase of £5750 from the same period in 2017/2018.

Please be aware if you make a late cancellation or do not attend on the day of the course, your line manager will be informed and a charge of £50 will be made. All organisations will be informed of the charging policy and the payment process.

4. OSCB Learning and Improvement

Multi-Agency Chronology (MAC) Practice Workshop

The OSCB held a practice workshop on the use of Multi-Agency Chronologies on Friday the 7th of December. 83 delegates attended the workshop, with 10 registered delegates failing to attend. Of those that attended, 64% of respondents rated the workshop as excellent and 36% good. For a full evaluation of the event, please see [here](#).

The OSCB are running a second MAC Practice Workshop on 26th April at Didcot Civic Centre, please see <https://training.oscb.org.uk> for further details and booking.

For further information and guidance on the MAC, please see the updated [Single and Multi-Agency Chronology Practice Guidance](#).

OSCB Annual Conference 2019

This year's annual conference on Thursday the 21st March, was on the theme of Contextual Safeguarding. The keynote speaker was Dr Carlene Firmin MBE, Principal Research Fellow and author of the Contextual Safeguarding framework. The event was attended by over 200 delegates. Please see [here](#) for further information on Contextual Safeguarding.

Conferences and learning events 2017-2018

- 116 staff attended the learning event on 'Learning from Serious Case Reviews' in October 2017
- 102 staff attended the learning event on 'Working with Fathers and Male Carers' in February 2018
- 165 staff attended the OSCB 'Neglect' Conference on the 7th March 2018
- 109 staff attended the learning event on Child Drug Exploitation in July 2018

All of the above events were supported by members of the OSCB training pool.

5. OSCB Trainer Development

The OSCB held a trainer celebration event on 27th February 2019, in recognition of training pool's achievements over 2017-2018, as follows:

- 81 Core Courses delivered with 2040 multi-agency practitioners trained
- 451 multi-agency practitioners trained on mental health, child sexual exploitation, working with men and boys, drugs and alcohol and sexual abuse
- 417 multi-agency practitioners trained on early help assessments
- 697 early years practitioners trained on safeguarding
- 38 multi-agency practitioners trained on female genital mutilation
- 3854 multi-agency practitioners trained on abuse and neglect; safeguarding and think family

In addition to the above, members of the pool have developed new courses in Working with Fathers and Other Male Care Givers and Working with LGBTQ Young People

The following courses are currently being developed for delivery in 2019; Designated Lead Refresher course and Neglect and Emotional Abuse (2 day course).

A huge thanks to the training pool for all their ongoing hard work and commitment!



6. Safeguarding in Education

Early Years

Early Years Safeguarding Self- Assessment (formerly Audit)

Please remember to regularly update your Early Years Safeguarding Self-assessment. By signing the [Early Education Funding \(EEF\)](#) Agreement providers agree to annually complete this OSCB early years' safeguarding Self-Assessment in line with the requirements of the Children Act 2004 and **return if/when requested by the Council without delay.**

You can find the audit on the [Free Early Years Toolkit](#) in both the Key documents and Safeguarding and Child Protection sections.

The Self - Assessment:

- will support you to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- will help you to assess the quality of your safeguarding practice in order to create a robust culture of safeguarding
- will help to ensure that gaps in safeguarding are identified and prompt action is taken to address these areas
- will help you keep you up to date with current legislation
- should be reviewed at least twice a year

- can be included as evidence for Ofsted

Notifying Ofsted and Compliance visits

Ofsted may bring forward an inspection when they receive information, which raises a concern, often around safeguarding. They will conduct a risk assessment on receiving this information to determine whether to inspect the provision or to carry out a regulatory visit or both.

This [handbook](#) sets out Ofsted's policy and approach to its compliance and enforcement work for providers who are registered on the Early Years and/or the Childcare Register.

The handbook also tells you about significant events you need to notify Ofsted about (pages 15-19) including information about contacting them about serious injuries (page 20-21).

First Aid

Unfortunately, non-compliance around the EYFS requirements for First Aid has been a feature of recent Inadequate and Compliance visits by Ofsted. Please ensure you are adhering to the statutory requirements of the [EYFS](#).

Preventing unintentional injuries

This PHE [guidance](#), produced in association with the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), is for all staff working with children under 5 years and covers the 5 injury priorities:

- choking, suffocation and strangulation
- falls
- burns and scalds
- poisoning
- drowning

Online Safety Guidance

The Government have produced guidance to help [managers](#) and [practitioners](#) working in early years settings (including wrap around care for the early years age group) to ensure their online safeguarding practice is in line with statutory requirements and best practice.

Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities

As the season of coughs, colds and other nasty bugs is upon us, the Government have updated their guidance on [Health Protection in schools and other childcare facilities](#). This includes the a table of periods of exclusion for illnesses including those which are notifiable diseases.

What do *you* do with your children to encourage good health and hygiene habits – Handwashing songs and picture signs; or maybe even a nose wiping station?



7. Voluntary and Community Sector



Oxfordshire Youth have been through an exciting period of development. We have spent time with youth organisations across the county, building our knowledge and understanding of the youth sector, strengthening partnerships and listening to young people to help better inform the work that we do.

As a result of our listening, we are strengthening the [Children and Young People's Forum](#) to form stronger relationships and a collective voice of influence. See below for details.

Furthermore, we know that people want better 'mapping'. We currently offer this interactive map online - [click here](#). However, in March this map will expand to include all organisations working with children and young people in Oxfordshire. Get in touch, if you have not yet shared your details with us.

8. National Children's Day UK (NCDUK) – Sunday 12th May

National Children's Day is all about the importance of a healthy childhood and how we need to protect the rights and freedoms of children in order to ensure that they can grow into happy, healthy adults.

This year National Children's Day UK is taking place on Sunday 12th May and people can run any kind of big or small event that they want for the week up to and including the day. From small family outings, to whole school and community events, local authority initiatives, talks, seminars and city-wide celebrations, it's an opportunity for everyone to raise awareness about the things they care about or projects they are running.

Why is it so important?

Because happy and healthy children create happy and healthy societies. And yet children in the UK are having a hard time.

Currently:

- 30% (4.1 million) currently live in poverty
- 22% are clinically obese (with the number of 10 and 11-year-old children classed as severely obese in the final year of primary school now nearly double those found in reception classes)
- one in eight (11.2%) children under 19 in England currently have a mental health disorder
- 2 million children in England live in families with substantial complex needs and of these
- 1.6 million children have no established, recognised form of additional support

Wendy Ellyatt, Chief Executive of the Save Childhood Movement said: “Children are our future - and protecting the health and wellbeing of children is everybody’s business. No matter what role we have in society, we need to work together to ensure that every child in the UK feels safe, loved, valued. If we want to create a more caring and compassionate world, we must start with children”.

www.nationalchildrensdayuk.com

People can run any kind of big or small activity or event that they want for the week up to and including NCDUK. For more information please contact Sally Grindley, NCDUK Project Director sally.grindley@nationalchildrensdayuk.com

9. National news

Love Life: resources for young people with learning disabilities

The NSPCC have developed Love Life in partnership with Elanor Stannage and Connecting Youth Culture to provide resources to help young people explore topics such as emotions, relationships and identity

The films and supporting resources are aimed at young people aged 11 to 25 to help them learn strategies for staying safe as they grow up and gain independence.

They enable adults to start conversations with young people about:

- feelings
- privacy and boundaries
- friendship
- different kinds of love
- online safety

See <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/schools/love-life/>

Positive relationships

The NSPCC has published a free online resource to help empower children aged 7-11 to make positive relationships matter in their school and community. Through starter activities and case studies, Primary AGENDA suggests inclusive, creative and rights-based approaches to a range of issues including: feelings and emotions; friendships and relationships; body image; consent; gender and sexuality equality; and equity.

Source: [NSPCC Learning](#) **Date:** 19 March 2019

Further information: [AGENDA wales](#)

Child sexual exploitation

The NSPCC is putting a spotlight on what works to support children and young people who have experienced or are at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). Findings from an evaluation of the Protect and Respect programme, which supports children and young people aged 11-19 who are affected by CSE, include: practitioners should work with a young person to understand what factors in their life may lead to an increased risk of CSE and identify what long-term support is needed. This may include working with families and advocating for engagement with other services.

Source: [NSPCC Learning](#) **Date:** 25 March 2019

Further information: [Protect and Respect](#)

Funding children's services

The Public Accounts Committee has published a report on funding for children's services in England. Findings include: the Department for Education (DfE) cannot explain the wide variation between local authorities in the activity and cost of children's social care, the increasing use of residential care is placing local authorities under extreme financial pressure and there is a lack of evidence on the effectiveness of early intervention in children's social care. Recommendations include: the DfE should set out what improvements it is seeking in children's social care by 2022; and the DfE should develop and lead on a cross government strategy for raising the quality in children's social care.

Source: [The Public Accounts Committee](#) **Date:** 22 March 2019

Further information: [Transforming children's services \(PDF\)](#)

Modern slavery

The Home Office has published the third and fourth interim reports from the Modern Slavery Act 2015 review. The third interim report looks at the Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTA) scheme in England and Wales. Recommendations about the scheme, which provides children with an advocate to ensure their voices are taken into account in all decisions made about them, include: the service should be extended to young people up to the age of 21 or 25 depending on their circumstances; cases of children that go missing should be kept open and discussed; the service should help train authorities in a consistent approach to age assessment; and the full roll out of the service across England and Wales should take place as soon as possible. The fourth interim report looks at the legal application of the Act. Recommendations include: the Act should be amended to make it clearer that a child is not able to consent to any element of their trafficking.

Source: [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) **Date:** 21 March 2019

Further information: [Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015: third interim report \(PDF\)](#)

[Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015: fourth interim report \(PDF\)](#)

Modern slavery and human trafficking

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has published its end of year summary on potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Findings from data on referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), a framework for identifying victims and ensuring they receive appropriate care, include: 3,137 referrals related to potential child victims, a 48% increase on the 2017 total. The NCA largely attribute this increase to a rise in the number of referrals relating to county lines - a process through which urban gangs use children to move drugs and/or money to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns.

Source: [NCA](https://www.nca.gov.uk) **Date:** 20 March 2019

Further information: [National Referral Mechanism statistics: end of year summary 2018 \(PDF\)](#)

Read more on NSPCC Learning: [Protecting children from trafficking and modern slavery](#)

Troubled families programme

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published a series of reports outlining findings from the evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020. Reports include: a summary of key findings from the different strands of the evaluation; an overview of

data about the families worked with and the programme's impact; qualitative findings from interviews with families and staff; and findings from surveys with the programme's coordinators, keyworkers, employment advisers and participants. Findings include: the programme appears to have reduced the proportion of looked after children and the proportion of adults and children receiving custodial sentences; evidence suggests families at risk are being identified more proactively and that multi-agency working has strengthened.

Source: [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#) **Date:** 19 March 2019

Further information: [National evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020: evaluation overview policy report \(PDF\)](#)

Parents in emotional distress

Public Health England has published updated data on the proportion of children living with at least one parent reporting symptoms of emotional distress in England. Findings include: around one in three children lived with at least one parent reporting symptoms of emotional distress in 2016 to 2017 and there was an increase in the proportion of children living with parents in emotional distress compared to data reported between 2015 and 2016.

Source: [Public Health England](#) **Date:** 19 March 2019

Families facing financial crisis

The Children's Society has published a report looking at the support available to families facing financial crisis. The research, which draws on responses to freedom of information (FOI) requests and interviews in local authority case study areas, finds that provision of crisis support has become increasingly fragmented since central government devolved responsibility to local authorities. Recommendations include: central government should provide the resources and guidance needed for local authorities to deliver crisis support that is fit for purpose; councils should make sure that support is available for child-related costs; agencies should be able to track vulnerable families through the local crisis support services to ensure they receive the follow up support they need and identify gaps in provision; and eligibility requirements should not prevent families with children and young people in financial crisis from getting help.

Source: [Children's Society](#) **Date:** 17 March 2019

Further information: [Nowhere to turn report \(PDF\)](#)

Sexual abuse of boys

Community care has published an article by a practice improvement advisor at the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse about what social workers can do improve identification and encourage disclosure of sexual abuse amongst boys. Recommendations include: when working with males who display challenging behaviour, always look to understand the cause of the behaviour and not just address the behaviour itself; design a process to gain feedback from young males and include them in innovations and service design; and use supervision to practise receiving disclosures and asking gender-sensitive questions about child sexual abuse.

Source: [Community Care](#) **Date:** 18 March 2019

Read more on NSPCC Learning: [Protecting children from sexual abuse](#)

Social media, mental health and wellbeing

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on social media and young people's mental health and wellbeing has published a report. Findings include: social media can have a range of positive effects, but children who spend time on social networking sites are more likely to have symptoms of mental ill health than those who do not; and social media is seen by many young people as having a negative impact on their self esteem. Recommendations include: establish a duty of care on social media companies with registered UK users aged 24 and under; create a Social Media Health Alliance to fund research, educational initiatives and establish clearer guidance for the public; review whether the 'addictive' nature of social media is sufficient for official disease classification; and commission longitudinal research into understanding the impact of social media on young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Source: [Royal Society for Public Health](#) **Date:** 18 March 2019

Further information: [#NewFilters to manage the impact of social media on young people's mental health and wellbeing \(PDF\)](#).

Pupil poverty

The Association of Schools and College Leaders (ASCL) has published findings from a survey about pupil poverty. Findings from responses from the headteachers of 374 state-funded secondary schools in England and 33 in Wales include: 96% of headteachers said the extent of pupil poverty has increased over the past few years, 91% provide items of clothing for disadvantaged pupils and 75% provide breakfast clubs.

Source: [ASCL](#) **Date:** 15 March 2019

Further information: [The Guardian](#)

No deal preparations for children's services

The Department for Education (DfE) has published advice for local authority children's services in England on how to prepare in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal. Issues covered include: right to live and work in the UK for employees in children's services; reciprocal recognition of professional qualifications for social workers; international child protection and children seeking asylum in the UK.

Source: [DfE](#) **Date:** 15 March 2019

Evaluating interventions

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) has published a ten step guide for evaluating interventions and services for children and their families. Steps cover: planning and developing a new intervention; piloting and testing the intervention; refining and monitoring the intervention; and adapting and expanding the reach of the intervention.

Source: [EIF](#) **Date:** 14 March 2019

Further information: [10 steps for evaluation success \(PDF\)](#)

Care applications

Cafcass has published its monthly care application statistics for England. In February 2019, Cafcass received 1,001 new care applications. This is 16.1% (192 applications) lower than February 2018.

Source: [Cafcass](#) **Date:** 05 March 2019

Further information: [Cafcass care application demand: latest figures for February 2019 \(xls\)](#)

Read more on NSPCC Learning: [Looked after children](#)

Early help

The Isos Partnership has published a report commissioned by the Local Government Association (LGA) looking at what makes an early help offer successful. The research, which looked at interventions in eight local areas, identified a number of factors which enabled effective early help offers, including: strong leadership; a long term commitment; working closely with the local community; focusing on the needs of the whole family and being clear about the desired impact of interventions.

Source: [Isos partnership](#) **Date:** 14 March 2019

Further information: [The key enablers of developing an effective partnership-based early help offer: final research report \(PDF\)](#).

Read more on NSPCC Learning: [Early help \(or early intervention\)](#)

Children and young people conference 2019

This conference, organised by Stonewall, focuses on lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT) inclusion in services, youth groups and education settings. It takes place on 5 July 2019 in London.

Source: [Stonewall](#)

Sexual abuse and mental health: reducing the impact of abuse on mental health

This conference, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK (HC-UK), takes place on 10 June 2019 in London.

Source: [HC-UK](#)

Support services

The Independent inquiry into child sexual abuse (IICSA) has issued an invitation to tender for research into victims' and survivors' experiences of support services.

Source: [IICSA](#)

10. Glossary

Glossary	
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CYP	Children and Young People Forum
DA	Domestic Abuse
DCS	Department of Children Services
DfE	Department for Education
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
EGA	Local Government Association
EIF	Early Intervention Foundation
EPI	Education Policy Institute
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation 2016
HBSC	Health Behaviour School-age Children
HMIP	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons
LADO	Local Area Designated Officer
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and others
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MP	Member of Parliament
NCB	National Children's Board
NHS FT	National Health Service Foundation Trust
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
OCVA	Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Association
OSAB	Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board
OSCB	Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability

