

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board



Safeguarding in Education Bulletin

Issue 27: Spring 21



Welcome to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board SiE bulletin.

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1. Welcome from the OSCB Chair

Dear Colleagues

It is my pleasure to introduce the Spring edition of the Safeguarding in Education bulletin, which I hope you will all find useful and informative.



Events of the last year have reinforced the key role played by education in safeguarding our children and young people, with schools and other settings being 'front and centre' in maintaining that critical line of sight to children and families. Your flexibility, dedication and professionalism has been, and continues to be, simply inspirational. Thank you.

You will see a focus in this edition on identifying, naming and responding to neglect. This requires a multi-agency approach and the education sector is again is key to tackling this issue.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Derek Benson
Chair of Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

2. OSCB Business Unit update

In January 2021, the OSCB re-published the [Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements](#). These arrangements set out our commitment to ensuring that children and young people in Oxfordshire are kept safe, and that all partner agencies work together to achieve this.

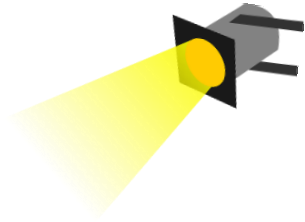
[Oxfordshire's Threshold of Needs](#) was updated in March 2021, in order to reflect the [learning from the Serious Case Review for Child M](#), including consideration of wider family members in the family system, parental vulnerability and the family's past history. This guidance is reviewed every two years and can be found on the [OSCB Multi-Agency Toolkit webpage](#).

Our health colleagues have recently developed a [protocol on bruising in babies and children who are not independently mobile](#). Bruising in pre or non-mobile babies and children is unusual (2.2% of babies who are not yet rolling). A number of serious case reviews have identified situations where children have died because practitioners did not appreciate the significance of what appeared to be minor bruising in a pre-mobile infant.

A leaflet for parents/carers: [What's going on? Information for parents and carers about bruising to pre-mobile babies and children](#), has also been developed. Both can be found on [the OSCB physical abuse webpage](#).

All OSCB training continues to be delivered virtually, via e-learning and live webinars. For a full list of available courses, please go to <https://training.oscb.org.uk/events-list>

3. Spotlight on neglect



In Oxfordshire, neglect is the most common reason for children becoming subject to a child protection plan or repeat plan. Neglect is also a recurring theme in local reviews and not enough children are being seen at the early help stage, as highlighted in the [Partnership Learning Review Summary on Neglect \(2020\)](#).

The partnership aims to reduce the impact of neglect on the emotional and physical well-being of children in Oxfordshire by identifying it earlier within families as part of our early help and preventative approach and through partnership working to support parents to enable change.

Identifying and naming neglect in education settings

The OSCB and Oxfordshire County Council, have been working with education settings to improve the local response to neglect and have developed the following tools and resources to support good practice:

- [Neglect Strategy in Schools March 2021](#)
- [Neglect Strategy audit tool 2021-22](#), this tool is intended to inform, develop and support your setting's existing safeguarding plan as well as whole setting development planning
- [Neglect good practice case study for education settings Mar 2021](#)

These and further resources can be found on the [safeguarding in education webpage](#).

Access to early help

The partnership learning review on neglect, summarised above, concluded that the physical and emotional neglect of children might have been prevented if Threshold of Needs Guidance had been understood and used to identify and name neglect, and to provide targeted early help.

A working group was set up to carry out a multi-agency review, take stock of where we are, identify what is going well and what challenges need to be addressed to achieve a position where the majority of practitioners understand and use the threshold of needs and early help assessment.

Please see the attached presentation on Access to Early Help, delivered to the Safeguarding in Education subgroup on the 24th of March.



OSCB Access to
Early Help SiE March

Further guidance, tools, videos and resources can be found on the [OSCB neglect webpages](#)

4. Oxfordshire multi-agency chronology portal is live

Findings from numerous safeguarding reviews, including recent local reviews, have concluded that the use of multi-agency chronologies supports the earlier identification of risks to the child(ren).



The Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Chronology (MAC) online portal went live in January providing a simple and secure way for practitioners to share their agency chronology for short periods of time. The system collates all information to build a full picture of what is happening in the life of a child/family at a point in time.

The MAC provides a succinct summary of the significant events in a child's life, in chronological order, and the impact these have. It can be used to identify risks and patterns, highlight strengths and successes, and inform decision making. The MAC will give shared ownership and responsibility for the multi-agency plan. Practitioners will be able to see the full, consolidated chronology and have an overview of the multi-agency support network around the family

The portal is easy to use and simplifies the process. There is no need for practitioners to complete and securely email a hard copy of their chronology to Children's Social Care. Where possible information is pre-populated by the system and information can be cut and pasted in, saving practitioners' time. It also allows the consolidation of forms for siblings, so only one form is required per family.

The [OSCB guidance on single and multi-agency chronologies](#) provides further information on chronologies, their purpose and what to include/not to include.

A [short training video](#) and [step by step written tutorial](#) provide guidance on accessing and using the new MAC portal to share your agency information.

These links can be found on the [OSCB Multi-Agency Toolkit webpage](#)

5. Child safeguarding practice review for Jacob

In January of this year, Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) published the findings of its safeguarding practice review concerning Jacob, a 16-year old boy who tragically died at home.

Reviews are normally anonymised but in this case Jacob's family wanted his story to be told and his name to be published.

The review analysed how he was criminally exploited and exposed to serious levels of youth violence, between July 2017 and April 2019. It found that professionals tried their best to understand Jacob's circumstances, the risks he faced and to think of ways to help him.

The purpose of the review was to identify ways to improve safeguarding practice across all agencies. Recommendations for improvement relate to police, schools, mental health services, district councils and Oxfordshire County Council's education and children's social care services.

The review concluded that the local system was not able to respond quickly enough. It highlighted the important need for effective community safety partnerships to ensure a coordinated response to criminal exploitation.

The recommendations in the review have been acted upon by all the local organisations involved. This ensures more effective across-agency working is being developed across Oxfordshire to protect young people from all forms of exploitation.

The steps taken as a result of the recommendations include:

- The launch of an integrated youth justice and exploitation service staffed by children's youth justice workers and social workers, police, education and health colleagues; which is introducing a joined-up approach to children and families affected by all types of exploitation
- The establishment of area-based 'missing and exploited' multi-agency panels, which analyse the reasons children go missing, the intelligence about exploitation in the area and set actions to be taken to address the risks

To read the Child Safeguarding Practice Review report and learning summary, please follow the links below:

[Jacob – OSCB Report – January 2021](#)

[Jacob – OSCB Learning Summary – January 2021](#)

6. 7 Minute Briefings delivered by the LADO/ESAT

Seven-minute briefings are based on a technique borrowed from the FBI. It is based on research, which suggests that seven minutes is an ideal time span to concentrate and learn. Learning for seven minutes is manageable in most settings, and learning is more memorable as it is simple and not clouded by other issues and pressures.



The LADO/ESAT have organised 2 briefing sessions per month, open to any DSL who would like to attend. The structure of each briefing will be the same, so it becomes easier to find the information, once familiar with the format.

The content of the briefings will be a mixture of new information (such as learning from Serious Case Reviews) or a reminder/repeat of individualised areas of safeguarding.

If you would like to book on to any of the 7-minute briefings coming up, please contact the email below stating which session you would like to attend:

lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Forced Marriage and FGM -11 May 2021 at 10am and 25 May 2021 at 2pm

Prevent - 7 June 2021 at 10am and 25 June 2021 at 2pm

Missing Children -5 July 2021 at 10am and 15 July 2021 at 2pm

7. For national updates/news, please visit [NSPCC Learning: Safeguarding in Education](#)

If there is anything you would like to see included in future bulletins, please contact Carole.Kinnell@oxfordshire.gov.uk