



Working arrangements between OSCB and OCYPT

This document sets out the working arrangements between the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) and the Oxfordshire Children and Young Peoples Trust (OCYPT). The OSCB and the Trust have distinctive and complementary roles in keeping children safe. The aim is that the implementation of a working protocol will support both partnerships to operate effectively, being clear about their respective functions, inter-relationships and roles and responsibilities of members.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act received Royal Assent on the 12 November 2009 and amends the Children Act 2004 to strengthen the role of the Children's Trust by making it a statutory body and develops the role of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs). This protocol will be revised in light of any subsequent statutory guidance which is developed once these changes come into force on a date specified by the Secretary of State.

The legal requirements are supplemented by a number of key documents which inform and shape the respective roles of Safeguarding Children Boards and Children's Trusts, including:

- Inter-agency co-operation to improve wellbeing of children: Children's Trusts
- Duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (statutory guidance).
- Guidance on Children and Young People's Plan.
- Guidance on role and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services (statutory guidance).
- Local Safeguarding Children's Board Guidance (statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children).
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children—an overview of cross Government guidance.
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children – National Framework Document

The Children Act 1989 provides the statutory framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in need. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as including:

- 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, and
- Undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

1 - The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

The OSCB is a statutory partnership created under the Children Act 2004 with statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children responsibility for agreeing how relevant local organisations will co-operate to achieve this. Its role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership. Its activities are part of the wider context of the Trust arrangements and its work contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children and young people.

The OSCB will:

- Hold the Trust and individual partners to account on matters of safeguarding in all activities, providing appropriate challenge on performance and results of performance indicators
- Take responsibility for monitoring action to improve safeguarding and highlight areas of underperformance and advise on ways to improve (see OSCB Protocol for Managing Poor Performance)
- Provide formal consultation on the preparation of the CYPP, and give an honest challenge to the activities of the Trust and its implementation of the CYPP through the annual report process.
- Develop and promote policy and procedures for safeguarding children and young people, make them widely available and publish them on the OSCB website
- Safeguard children and young people in relation to providing information on:
 - The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare including thresholds for intervention.
 - Multi-disciplinary training for people who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children.
 - Requirements for recruitment and supervision of people who work with children.
 - Investigation of allegations concerning people who work with children.
 - Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered.
 - Co-operation with neighbouring Children's Services Authorities and their board partners.
- Communicate and raise awareness within local communities of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children to those who work with children, including volunteers, and members of the public.
- Undertake Serious Case Reviews where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in a child's death or serious injury – especially where there is cause for concern about the way professionals or agencies have worked together.

- Monitor the implementation of action plans from Serious Case Reviews, disseminate to relevant organisations and bodies any lessons learnt about the prevention of future child deaths, serious injury or neglect which have been identified, and ensure the finding inform the CYPP.
- Act on any recommendations from the Child Death Overview Panel to improve policy, professional practice and inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Lead on or contribute to specific safeguarding initiatives, e.g. e-safety, missing children, safer workforce, and sexual exploitation

2 - The Children and Young People's Trust

The Trust is the strategic partnership responsible for improving the lives of children and young people by delivering better services, including their health and wellbeing. It is responsible for promoting a local vision - set out in the Children and Young People's Plan – to drive improved outcomes for local children and young people and their families. The Trust has a specific function to prepare and monitor the implementation of the Plan. It provides the strategic framework within which the partners may commission services in a co-ordinated way either by joint or aligned budgets.

The CYPT will:

- Monitor performance on its priorities across all partner agencies and put in place robust arrangements for inter-agency governance.
- Undertake formal consultation with children, relevant young people and families, stakeholders, relevant partners and OSCB in relation to the formulation of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYP Plan) Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005).
- Undertaking a joint strategic needs assessment to identify and agree local priority outcomes and setting out these priorities in a Children and Young People's Plan. The outcomes must relate to:
 - Physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.
 - Protection from harm and neglect.
 - Education training and recreation
 - The contribution made by them to society and
 - Social and economic wellbeing.
- Ensure that the Plan specifies how improvements are to be made and what arrangements to safeguard and promote children and young people's welfare as well as early intervention and preventative action are in place.
- Will ensure that the CYPT Plan explains how the Children's Services Authority intends to achieve the improvements in relation to the specified outcomes, including the following:

- Integration of services provided by the Authority and its relevant partners to improve the wellbeing of children and relevant young people.
 - The arrangements made by the Authority to safeguard and promote children and young people's welfare.
 - Arrangements for early intervention and preventative action.
 - Ensure that there is a needs assessment against the outcomes.
 - Ensure that an outline of the key actions planned to achieve the improvements are related to the outcomes.
 - A statement as to how the Authority's budget will be used to contribute to those improvements.
 - A statement as to how the plan relates to the Authority's performance management and review of services for children and relevant young people.
 - Each plan will set out the arrangements by which the Authority and relevant partners are to work together to achieve these outcomes.
- Ensure that the OSCB is formally consulted on the Children and Young People's Plan and on issues which affect how the welfare of children is to be safeguarded and promoted.
 - Take note of recommendations and identified areas for improvement made by the OSCB and report back to the OSCB on subsequent progress.
 - Ensure that the advice and information provided by the OSCB are appropriately disseminated within the Trust member organisations.
 - Take an overview of the OSCB activities as part of its monitoring arrangements, as the work of the OSCB falls within the framework of the Children and Young People's Plan
 - Invite the chair of the OSCB to attend the Children's Trust Board meetings.

3 - The relationship between the OSCB and the CT

- The OSCB is responsible for monitoring and evaluating local safeguarding arrangements whereas the CT is responsible for the joint commissioning and delivery of local services for children and young people.
- The OSCB has the authority to call all agencies represented on the CT to account for their safeguarding activity but is not accountable for the operational work of individual agencies or the CT.
- The OSCB will provide robust, independent challenge to the safeguarding work of the CT and its partners.
- The OSCB will provide an annual report to the CT setting out an honest assessment of local safeguarding arrangements and its key findings from the monitoring and evaluation of local safeguarding arrangements during the year, and recommendations of areas of safeguarding which should be included in the CYPP.

4 - Operational arrangements

In order to deliver local services effectively the OSCB and CT will;

- Have an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly through identified lead individuals
- Work together to ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another
- Ensure they are committed to working together to ensure there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice.

This means that;

- The Monitoring & Evaluation subgroup of the OSCB is the vehicle for monitoring the performance of all partner agencies, is responsible for data collection and the annual section 11 audit on safeguarding matters, reporting quarterly to the OSCB.
- The M&E subgroup will undertake multi-disciplinary safeguarding audits and feedback the results to the OSCB, advising on ways to improve, highlighting areas of underperformance and highlighting gaps in services across the partnership. This will be reported to the CT to consider as part of its joint commissioning process
- The OSCB will undertake serious case reviews when required, will feedback learning to the CT and lead on monitoring the implementation of action plans
- The CT will ensure that the OSCB is formally consulted during the development of the CYPP
- The CT will ensure that those issues raised in the OSCB annual report into the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements are responded to as part of the development of the CYPP
- The CT will consult the LSCB on issues, policies and strategies which affect how children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted, e.g. a local preventative strategy, CAMHS arrangements or services for children in care
- The CT will take responsibility for the overall performance monitoring of the indicators, data and targets and outcomes identified within the CYPP, and receive specific reports from the OSCB on the Stay Safe ECM outcome.
- The CT will take an overview of the OSCB's activities as part of its monitoring arrangements, as the work of the OSCB falls within the framework of the CYPP.