# Report to the Meeting of the

**BOD 112/2017**  
(Agenda item: 11)

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Board of Directors

# 27 September 2017

**Safeguarding Children and Adults Joint Annual Report 2016/2017**

**For: Information and Approval**

**Executive Summary**

The report provides assurance that OHFT is compliant with its statutory duties and CQC Regulation 13 ‘Safeguarding service users from abuse and improper treatment’.

OHFT has a statutory duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. Under the Care Act 2014 the Trust has a responsibility to work co-operatively with partners to ensure the welfare of adults at risk.

Senior Managers are a statutory members of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBS) under section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and must comply with laws and guidance related to safeguarding children. We are also members of the Safeguarding Adult Boards in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

This report provides the Trust Board with an overview of the progress against the safeguarding children and adult priorities for period 01/04/16 to 31/03/17

An annual safeguarding children report for the Swindon, Wiltshire, Bath and North-East Somerset area has also been produced for CCG commissioners and is appended and provides more details of work in that geographical area.

The joint safeguarding report outlines current areas of joint working between the safeguarding children and adult teams and the safeguarding children and adult priorities and areas for development for 2017/18.

Embedded within the report are the individual Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults annual reports. These provide full details of work undertaken by the teams over the past year and assurance around safeguarding practice. These can be requested by Board members if required. The detailed reports have been reviewed by the Safeguarding Committee which reports to the Quality Safety Committee.

**Governance Route/Approval Process**

This is an annual report for the Trust Board. It has been previously presented at the Trust Safeguarding Meeting on 6th July 2017 and the Quality Sub-committee: Safety on 20th July 2017 for comments and approval.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note and approve the report.

**Author and Title: Lisa Lord & Jayne Harrison, Trust Lead Nurses Safeguarding Children, Moira Gilroy, Safeguarding Adults Manager.**

**Lead Executive Director: Ros Alstead, Director of Nursing and Clinical Standards**

1. *A risk assessment has been undertaken around the legal issues that this report presents and [there are no issues that need to be referred to the Trust Solicitors]*
2. ***Strategic Objectives*** *– this report relates to or provides assurance and evidence against the following Strategic Objective(s) of the Trust*

*1) Driving Quality Improvement*

*2) Delivering Operational Excellence*

*3) Delivering Innovation, Learning and Teaching*

*4) Developing Our Business through Collaboration and Partnerships*

*5) Developing Leadership, People and Culture*

**Safeguarding Children and Adults**

**Joint Annual Report 2016/2017**

**1. Introduction**

Safeguarding is a complex and challenging area of work. The aim of the safeguarding teams is to provide high quality advice, training and support to practitioners across Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, to enable them to keep children safe and safeguard adults during the course of their work.

In all geographical areas covered by OHFT safeguarding services Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Swindon, Wiltshire, Bath, Bristol and North-East Somerset, safeguarding activity has increased over the past year.

We contributed to the Oxford Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adult Board (OSAB) Impact Assessment for 2016/17 as a result of a Report Card on increased activity levels across the safeguarding system. This was in the context of significant organisational change, reducing public sector budgets, the fact that a number of the issues are equally relevant to safeguarding vulnerable adults with care and support and to reduce duplication.

The key points raised by this report highlight the current picture for safeguarding practice by agencies including OHFT (this is applicable to other counties in addition to Oxfordshire).

* *Managing Risk*: Individual agencies are effectively managing safeguarding risks within their service, however, in the current context that we are working (greater demands, reduced budgets, recruitment and retention of staffing difficulties and consequent levels of organisational change), we need to reinforce the agreed multi agency approach to managing risk which views safeguarding collectively through the journey of the person rather than the response of the individual organisations. Where more than one agency is involved, risk levels should be assessed and managed collectively and not by an individual agency.
* *Rise in demand for services and activity pressure*: Respondents identified three distinct increases in demand: there are more safeguarding cases coming forward, cases are more complex and there are greater expectations both from members of the public and from organisations themselves as they continue to learn more lessons about safeguarding. Many respondents indicated a rise in demand for particular client groups and in adult safeguarding concerns in particular. Most departments and organisations have time related targets for dealing with different aspects of the safeguarding process which are increasingly difficult to achieve given this rise in demand. OHFT (Oxford Health Foundation Trust) also mention significant delays in authorisation of DOLs (deprivation of liberty safeguards) due to capacity pressures with potential adverse consequences for individuals. More complex cases are now being held in universal and non-statutory services and this includes the voluntary and community sector and city and district councils.
* *Resources, staffing and restructure pressures:* Having a stable workforce is seen as an important safeguard for vulnerable people and families but most respondents talked about the staffing pressures that they were facing and the difficulty in recruiting and retaining suitably qualified staff. At least 8 of the 11 respondents also cited budget pressure or lack of resources as a key pressure on safeguarding adults and children.
* *Workforce development and support:* In the context of changing roles and different organisations holding more complex cases, there is a need for more training and support for staff.
* *Housing:* Two distinct issues were identified relating to housing and homelessness. The first related to homelessness among children and families, including migrant families. The second related primarily to adults and to the reduction in supporting people funding and the implications for people who do not meet the thresholds for social care.

**2. Inspections**

**2.1 CQC Trustwide Inspection - 29 September 2015 – 2 October 2015**

The CQC reported that, across all services OHFT staff were good at recognising safeguarding concerns and reporting incidents. Teams learnt from incidents and complaints and shared learning across services, through regular ‘briefing notes’.

When the CQC undertook their inspection in September/October 2015, they rated nine of the 14 core services provided by the OHFT as good and one (community health services for children, young people and families) as outstanding. This re-inspection assessed three of the core services that the CQC had rated as requires improvement.

**2.2 CQC Re-inspection -14-16 June 2016**

The re- inspection was to make sure that the improvements required had been made following inspection. The CQC reconsidered the overall rating for OHFT and have now revised the ratings of these three core services to good.

**2.3 CQC Inspection of Out of Hours- October 2016**

Improvements were required in safety, specifically OHFT’s ability to demonstrate the completion of DBS checks for staff and the completion of safeguarding children training for all GPs.

The Urgent care services are undertaking a piece of work to identify the GPs who require training and the safeguarding children team will deliver an additional session if required.

**2.4 Mental Health Act inspections:** the safeguarding themes identified are consistently the same:

* The reading of the person’s rights following detention under the MHA
* Consent to treatment

These issues are discussed in each of the MCA/MHA training sessions. Links are made with the Mental Health Act Code of Practice and the guiding principles and the MCA Statutory Principles. These issues continue to be a priority.

**3. Current joint working between Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults**

The safeguarding children and the safeguarding adults’ teams have continued to develop closer working.

* To embed learning from recent homicide reviews and serious incidents to ensure there is closer collaboration between children and adult services.
* Adult Learning Disability services transfer to OHFT. There is recognition that there will be safeguarding adult and children issues in relation to this client group.
* Safeguarding training is provided jointly by the safeguarding teams to the relevant staff; to achieve commissioner’s target of 90% across all geographical areas.
* There has been joint development of policies/guidance.

1. Domestic Abuse policy and guidance which was completed in 2016.
2. Chaperone policy which was completed in 2017. This complex policy requires individual service areas to develop local guidance.

* In response to a recommendation from a Serious Case Review (SCR) in Oxfordshire, there has been joint working across OHFT to review the response to patient/clients who have issues of domestic abuse. Senior level agreement about strategic leadership of domestic abuse is required in order to take this work forward in line with the SCR.
* Both children and adult safeguarding teams provide consultation to all OHFT staff. This provides the opportunity to signpost/liaise where there are safeguarding issues for children and adults.
* In 2016/2017 in Oxfordshire we have completed a joint children and adult Section 11[[1]](#footnote-1) audit. The safeguarding teams have used the framework to assess safeguarding arrangements for all age groups.
* In 2017 in Oxfordshire a joint adult and children impact assessment was undertaken on current pressures and activity of each member of the safeguarding boards (Oxfordshire safeguarding children and adult boards).

**4. Joint priorities for** **Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults 2017/2018**

* Support operational teams work to improve joint working between children and adult services including transitions between care pathways across all ages.
* Strengthen joint working between safeguarding children and safeguarding adult service.
* Continue to support services and staff to ensure multi agency partnership working in the context of increasing demand and the need to be managing risk collectively.
* Adult and children safeguarding teams to work alongside adult and children services to promote good practice and share learning between pathways across all ages in relation to self-harm.
* Continue to support the work with the transfer of the Oxfordshire community learning disability services.
* As part of the Trust Mortality Review work, continue to ensure we robustly review and learn from deaths of children and adults. Ensuring consistent engagement with the five LSCBs and the Child Death Processes.
* Continue to work together to the review the response to patient/clients who have issues of domestic abuse.
* To agree a strategy for modern slavery across adult and children services.
* Complete Lampard , Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) recommendations. These are currently to ensure that a) Visitors and VIPs policy is in place (Lampard), b) providing level 6 training for executive leadership and achieve KPI target of 90% set by commissioners (2015/16 Verita checklist).
* With support from safeguarding adult manager; enhance the Safeguarding Children Team’s knowledge of deprivation of liberty safeguards (DOLS) particularly in relation to 16-17 year olds and the Mental Capacity Act 2005. This is in light of the Law Commission recommendations to ministers on replacing the current system.
* To continue to support the development of understanding, implications and response to FGM across adult and children services.

**5.** The full Safeguarding Children annual report is available from the Jayne Harrison and Lisa Lord (Trust Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children)

The full Safeguarding Adults annual report is available from Moira Gilroy Safeguarding Adult Manager

1. Section 11 Children Act 2004; states that all organisations who work with children and young people should ensure that they have effective arrangements in place to safeguard and promote their welfare. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)