

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

**BOD 66/2021**

(Agenda item: 12)

# Board of Directors

**29 September 2021**

**Safeguarding Service Annual Report 2020/21**

**For: Assurance and Approval**

**Executive Summary**

2020/21 was overshadowed by Covid19.  The information in this report should be read within this context.  The Coronavirus Act 2020 allowed for easement of some statutory responsibilities.  None of these easements were implemented within the local authority areas in which the Trust provides services.  It was explicit that safeguarding services would continue as business as usual.  A report on the safeguarding service response to COVID 19 was submitted to the Trust Quality Special Safe COVID subcommittee in June 2020 and is added as an appendix to this report.

A joint Safeguarding Children and Adult self-assurance/S11 audit for Oxfordshire was completed and following a peer review event, the Trust was rated green.

In Buckinghamshire, the self-assurance process is being completed separately for children and adults.  This is being completed for adults during the first months of 2021/22 and was completed for children in March 2021. Partners are awaiting the final report and recommendations.

There was no inspection from CQC that involved the Safeguarding Service.

The safeguarding team’s core work is supporting staff in managing highly complex cases through training, supervision and consultation.

Safeguarding children and adults training has been reviewed in line with the latest Intercollegiate guidance and was provided through MS teams and e-learning.

Team activity in relation to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has increased in Oxfordshire in 2020/21. The MASH has processed 34% more cases in comparison to the previous year.  In addition, child protection strategy meetings are now processed through the MASH, and these meetings require attendance by a named nurse.  A requirement for additional resource in the MASH has been escalated to the Chief Nurse and to commissioners.

**Safeguarding service priorities for 2021/22**

Communication: The Safeguarding Service will have clear communication in place both within the organisation and with our partners

Safeguarding service: The safeguarding adult and children’s teams will be fully integrated in to one service.

Audit: The safeguarding service will have a comprehensive audit program in place.

Training: The safeguarding service will have a robust training program in place.

Public protection: The safeguarding service will participate in multi-agency public protection work and ensure information is disseminated across directorates

Whole family approach :  The safeguarding service will work with services towards a Trust wide whole family approach

Actions to be taken to achieve these priorities are outlined in the main body of the report.

**Governance Route/Escalation Process**

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.

This report relates to or provides assurance and evidence against the Strategic Objective(s) of the Trust,

**Statutory or Regulatory responsibilities**

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

The Trust 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.

**Recommendation**

 The Board is asked to approve the report.

**Author and Title:** Lisa Lord & Jayne Harrison, Lead Nurses Safeguarding Children

Moira Gilroy, Safeguarding Adult Manager

**Lead Executive Director:** Marie Crofts

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/Priorities – this report relates to or provides assurance and evidence against the following Strategic Objective(s)/Priority(ies) of the Trust :

**1) Quality - Deliver the best possible care and health outcomes**

2) People - Be a great place to work

3) Sustainability – Make best use of our resources and protect the environment

**4) Research and Education – Become a leader in healthcare research and education**