

## Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board

### Key Messages from The OSAB Chair – October 2017

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board met at County Hall in Oxford on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and the Chair Pam Marsden would like to share the following messages with you:

#### **Presentation**

The Board received a report from Helen Ward, Deputy Director of Quality, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group on the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Mortality Review. The Review was undertaken earlier this year following the recommendations from the national review of deaths of people with a learning disability, known as MAZARS. The aim of the Oxfordshire review was primarily to ensure that past deaths had been sufficiently investigated and to take action to improve future care. The meeting heard that in one of the deaths reviewed it was felt that the circumstances warranted consideration by the SAR subgroup who then reviewed the case but did not believe it met the threshold for a safeguarding review.

Clearly it is expected both nationally and locally that the Transforming Care Programme will address the issues highlighted by the review and that locally the move to a new provider and closer oversight from the Clinical Commissioning Group will ensure that the changes already in place will lead to continued improvements. There is also now in place a Vulnerable Adults Mortality process, a subgroup of the OSAB, which reviews all current deaths in this care group, identifies any concerns and action to be taken and any emerging themes. The meeting thanked Helen for this report which can be found using the following link:

<http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/documents/meetings/board/2017/07/2017-07-27-Paper-17-50-Mazars-Mortality-Review.pdf>

#### **Subgroup Report**

The Board was advised that there were no decisions to be made in relation to any of the subgroups on this occasion. However, it was agreed that reports in future would clearly outline the assurance questions asked by the Board and defined in each subgroups Terms of Reference.

#### **1) Safeguarding Adult Reviews**

There have been no new cases referred since the last Board meeting and the subgroup has therefore not met.

#### **2) Policy and Procedures**

The group received an update on the Missed Visits Task and Finish Group work. They agreed as priorities guidance on Financial Abuse and the review of the Threshold of Needs Matrix.

#### **3) Training**

A report detailing all planned training was to be considered by the Joint Boards later in the day.

#### **4) Performance, Information and Quality Assurance**

The group have revised the dataset in the light of the Board's comments and considered the audit of care provider concerns which do not meet the threshold to ensure that issues and themes can be addressed.

#### **5) Vulnerable Adults Mortality Panel**

Five cases have been considered since the last meeting and to date no new themes have emerged. The Board was assured however that if there are any urgent actions required these are taken immediately.

#### **Oxfordshire County Council - Safeguarding Service Analysis**

Melanie Pearce, Service Manager Safeguarding Service, presented a report which reviewed Oxfordshire County Council's Safeguarding Service which was reconfigured to be a dedicated centralised service in October 2016. A number of positive findings were noted around triage, early risk assessment, involvement of other agencies and improvements in quality and consistency. There have however been bottlenecks and issues around timeliness of response despite the new arrangements. The meeting was informed that risks are regularly reviewed, work prioritised and extra staff are also to be recruited. Clearly it is hoped that the ongoing work to ensure that concerns referred to the team are appropriate will have an impact. The Board agreed it would be helpful to gain feedback from partners on their experience of the new team and of issues that may have arisen since its inception. This will be shared with the Board in due course.

#### **Oxford Health HFT Single Agency Report**

Moira Gilroy, Safeguarding Adults Manager Oxford Health Foundation Trust, presented a report on the work of the Trust in relation to safeguarding and associated concerns. The aim of these single agency annual reports is to provide the Board with information and assurance around progress. The report described the work around pressure ulcer management; the transition of learning disability services from Southern Health NHS Foundation to Oxford Health; how the Trust was working to ensure they identified the children of parents admitted for Mental Health treatment. Moira also provided the Board with an overview of the Trust's mental health safeguarding investigations. It was agreed that discussions would take place about this data outside of the Board. It was also agreed that Moira would provide an update on the new arrangements for care of those people with a learning disability to the December Board. Moira was thanked for her report.

#### **Provider Market Update Report**

Benedict Leigh, Deputy Director Joint Commissioning provided a report as promised at the last Board around the residential and nursing care home market. His previous report to the Board had addressed the domiciliary care sector and concerns around the fragility of this market. The report described how the County Council and Clinical Commissioning Group have a pooled budget for purchasing care home beds. However, it is the County Council who is responsible for market development, sustainability and that the care delivered is of good quality. There are about 4500 care home beds currently and Oxfordshire County Council purchase about 30%. A significant proportion are purchased privately.

Benedict's report described the work they do in commissioning to monitor the sector and support providers and the governance in place which mirrors that of the work around the domiciliary sector. There are some positive and reassuring aspects to both the Care Quality Commission data in the report and to the survey results around satisfaction. 86% of Oxfordshire homes are good or outstanding compared with 79% nationally. There are however 2 homes deemed inadequate and the Board was advised that there were a number of measures in place to monitor improvement. Benedict assured the Board that the care home market is considered to be financially stable and is in fact growing as a sector. Safeguarding and the quality of care continue to be issues the Board will need to be assured about and regular reports will no doubt be required going forward on the care sector as a whole.

### **Procedures**

The Board considered the multiagency procedure for working with people who do not engage with services or who are deemed ineligible to receive services. There was some concern expressed around resources to organise the meetings and difficulties in some areas around dissemination. It was agreed to review the procedure over the first 6 months which would be monitored by the PIQA subgroup. The Board agreed the procedure with the expectation that there would need to be a flexible approach to support the smaller agencies if the procedure was going to be widely adopted.

### **Joint meeting of the OSAB and OSCB - 28<sup>th</sup> September, County Hall**

In March 2017 both Boards agreed the following 3 priorities: training, domestic abuse and transitions.

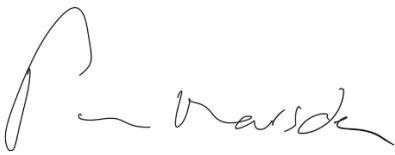
Today the Boards received a comprehensive plan around training and agreed that this could continue to be monitored through the regular Board arrangements and no longer needed this specific focus. This would allow for an opportunity to consider another priority in due course.

The Strategic Transition Group progress report detailed how concerns around the transition process have been based on anecdotal evidence which, whilst important, lacked hard data. The group have agreed to undertake the work to identify numbers, risks and outcomes for this cohort of young people. They will also undertake a survey of young people and their parents. A full report should be completed by February and come to the next meeting of both Boards in March 2018.

The Domestic Abuse progress report confirmed that a budget of 600k had been agreed across partner agencies and there was also agreement that Oxfordshire County Council would be lead commissioner. A workforce development strategy has been developed but it was not clear what funding will be required and how this will be identified and so further discussions will need to take place.

Both Boards agreed that housing should become the next priority. The work will be around identifying leads in housing organisations to improve 2-way communication, establish referral routes and promote safeguarding training opportunities.

Finally, a discussion took place about the implications of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The guidance is still awaited and the changes will not be expected to be implemented before the summer of 2019. The OSCB have agreed they are unlikely to make any radical changes to their current arrangements which appears to be the case for most county councils. However, it seems that many unitary authorities are considering different structures for their OSCBs going forward. The implications for OSABs is still to be understood.



Pam Marsden  
Independent Chair OSAB