



Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust



Safeguarding children

Handling reports of non-recent child sexual abuse

What happens when a disclosure of non-recent child sexual abuse is shared with the police or social care?

This leaflet is to support clinicians with what happens next, after a decision has been made following discussion with your supervisor/manager/safeguarding team to take forward a disclosure of non-recent child sexual abuse with the police/ social care.

This information should be referred to in conjunction with the *Guidance for joint working between Oxford Health NHS FT and other agencies with regard to disclosure of non-recent child sexual abuse* (2017).

What if a child is identified as being **currently at risk**?

If a child is identified as being currently at risk this should be referred by the clinician to Children's Social Care following normal local safeguarding procedures.

If a child is in immediate danger call 999. If a child is currently at risk, and you believe there may be important forensic evidence, report at the earliest opportunity to the Police, as timeframes are crucial for their investigation.

The following table provides the contact details for the different children's social care teams across the trust's area:

Area	Telephone	Out of hours	Team
Oxfordshire	0845 050 7666	0800 833 408	Emergency Duty Team
Bucks	01296 383 962	0800 999 767	First Response
Swindon	01793 466 903	01793 436 699	Children and Families Referral and Assessment Team
Wiltshire	01225 718 555	0845 607 0888	Children and Families Referral and Assessment Team
Bath & NE Somerset	01225 396 313	01454 615 165	Children and Families Referral and Assessment Team

What if it is not clear that a child is currently at risk?

A call should be made to 101 the non-emergency police number.

What should I expect when I call 101 the non-emergency police number?

When you call 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the police force covering that area.

You will hear a recorded message announcing the police

force you are being connected to.

Calls to 101 are answered by trained police officers and staff in the control room of the local police force. The call handler will log the call and refer it to the relevant team within the force.

The police will allocate a crime report number called a unique reference number (URN) on reporting the information. This should be referred to in any communication with the police and recorded in the client's clinical record along with the name of the officer you speak with.

If it is a clinician making a call on behalf of the client, this number should be given to the client and recorded in the client's clinical record.

You should be prepared to provide the call handler with the following information:

- Your details (including name, contact details and times when you will be available to be called back)
- Your role
- Place of work
- Details of client, perpetrator and disclosure

What happens if the client wants to report to the police themselves?

There are different ways in which a client may wish to report their experience of child sexual abuse to the police. This can be done:

- directly by phone or at a local police station

- anonymously
- via a nominated third party

Greater detail about this can be found in our information leaflet for clients *Reporting Abuse you Experienced as a Child*.

What will happen after the disclosure is shared with the police?

Police and other agencies will need to enable an effective response that incorporates the need to protect children and investigate a crime, balanced against the need to protect the well-being of the person who is a survivor of child sexual abuse.

Where there are current child safeguarding concerns, a minuted strategy meeting involving a police supervisor, social care colleagues and any other relevant professionals should take place before any further action is taken.

The clinician involved or member of the Safeguarding Children Team is likely to be part of such a meeting. The outcome will be fed back to the clinician and, where appropriate, the client.

Police will make contact with the client/patient within days to discuss what took place and explain the next steps, including making a statement.

What do I do if a disclosure has to be taken

forward without the knowledge or consent of the client?

In some cases the consent and knowledge of the client may not be possible. This could be because of an increase in risk to a child, the client, clinician or others, or because they may then seek to inform an alleged perpetrator or undermine any further investigation.

If information is to be shared without knowledge of the client, senior members of the Safeguarding Children Team will have an initial no names discussion with a senior police officer within Thames Valley Police.

If the result of this conversation is to proceed, details of the client, perpetrator and any details of the offence, will be requested from the clinician by the Safeguarding Children Team.

These will be shared by senior members of the Safeguarding Children Team via the 101 non-emergency number, stating the following to ensure correct procedures are followed:

"This case is being reported following discussions with DCI or DI adhering to the Oxford Health NHS Guidance for joint working with partner agencies. Please can DCI or DI... be notified of this report. The consent of the aggrieved has not been obtained to refer to police, but safeguarding concerns have overridden this fact as per the guidance. Please can this case therefore be treated with extreme sensitivity.

No overt action is required prior to the police MASH Sergeant's



review.”

The police will allocate a crime number called a URN number on reporting the information.

This should be shared with the clinician for recording in

the client’s clinical record.

The Safeguarding Children Team will also keep a record of the crime number and client’s name. The details will be kept in case of future requests by the police to help identify or confirm anyone else who may be at risk. The crime number cannot be recorded against a clinician’s name, as they may leave the Trust and the details of who made the disclosure would be lost.

The outcome of the police sergeant’s review will be reported back to the Safeguarding Children Team so that this can be recorded in the relevant client record and shared with the relevant clinician involved, and if needed, any further joint arrangements can be made.

What should I do if the client wants the disclosure shared with the police, but wants me to report?

The clinician can make a call to 101 on behalf of the client. The clinician should state that they are making the call on their behalf, and it is a third party report. The clinician needs

to be clear how the client wishes to proceed.

What if the client wants to share information as intelligence, but does not want to pursue a criminal complaint or want the perpetrator arrested?

The client can call 101 the police non-emergency number and state; this happened to them as a child, they do not want to make a criminal complaint or want the perpetrator arrested.

It is unlikely that the police would go against victim's wishes, but 100% guarantee cannot be given. If police checks identify a child may be currently at risk then a discussion would take place with children's social care.

By reporting the disclosure a crime will be recorded against the client and a crime number given. If the client should change their mind and wish to take forward as a criminal complaint at a later date, the crime number can be referred to and this would show that the client has been consistent in their disclosure.

Can the client report informally/anonymously to the police?

The client can call 101 the non-emergency police number or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111. This can also be carried out by a friend, family member or support worker on their behalf.

Advise the client it is better to give their own name, as this will help to identify or confirm anyone else at risk. This does not

mean they will be contacted.

What should I document?

A clear recording of the disclosure of the client, details of actions taken, including discussions with supervisors/managers/Safeguarding Children Team and outcomes should be recorded in the clinical record.

If checks on police systems have taken place without the client's knowledge, ensure that this is clearly recorded in the clients clinical record, handed over in transition to other services and included in discharge summaries to partner agencies e.g. GPs.

An alert can be added to the clients clinical record under the safeguarding option. Document in the text box, "information shared without knowledge and consent of client. See 3rd party sensitive tab for details". This is to avoid the client being informed that this has taken place. A clear rationale for the decision not to inform the client should be included.

What if my client reported the abuse in the past but is not happy how it was investigated and/or has new information that was not known during the investigation?

The police will respond to your client's concerns and/or new information.

Your client, a friend, family member or support worker can call the non-emergency police number 101 and discuss how this can be taken forward.

Where can my client get support?

Specific support for survivors of child sexual abuse is currently provided by adult psychological services within Oxford Health NHS FT. If appropriate a referral can be made direct to such provision by mental health teams. In other circumstances clients should be encouraged to seek advice from their GP.

Below are listed a number of organisations that can be contacted. However, these organisations are non-NHS and therefore Oxford Health NHS FT cannot vouch for the quality of their services:

NSPCC

The NSPCC give support to those who have experienced child abuse in the past, or for those who are concerned about a child in the present.

- Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Email: help@nspcc.org.uk
- Text: 88858
- Make a report online at www.nspcc.org.uk

NAPAC

NAPAC is the National Association for People Abused in Childhood, providing a helpline and support to people who experienced past abuse.

- Support line: 0800 085 3330 (times vary on different days - see website for details and for freephone numbers for

different mobile phone networks)

- www.napac.org.uk

MOSAC

This charity aims to provide a unique and specialist service, offering practical and emotional support to non-abusing parents, carers and families.

- Helpline: 0800 980 1958
- Email: enquiries@mosac.org.uk
- www.mosac.org.uk

Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre

This organisation offer support and advice to women who have experienced sexual violence and abuse. They provide confidential, independent information on the reporting process and the options open to survivors of abuse. Practical advice on housing and finance are also provided.

- Helpline: 01865 726295
- Email: support@osarcc.org.uk
- www.osarcc.org.uk

The Solace Centre

The Solace Centre is a sexual assault medical centre that collects evidence.

If you want to speak to someone you can contact them on the following:

- Tel: 0300 130 3036
- www.solacearc.org.uk

The Survivors Trust

The Survivors Trust is a UK-wide national umbrella agency for 141 specialist organisations for support for the impact of rape, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse throughout the UK and Ireland.

- www.thesurvivorstrust.org

Stop It Now!

Stop It Now! is an organisation run by Lucy Faithful House that is at the forefront of activity to prevent child sexual abuse.

- www.stopitnow.org.uk

Links to other helpful information:

Citizens Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/relationships/children-and-young-people/child-abuse/police-involvement/child-abuse-police-involvement/>

Rights of Women

<http://rightsofwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Reporting-an-offence-to-the-police-a-guide-to-criminal-investigations.pdf>

Victim Support

https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/sites/default/files/P1008%20Rape-Female%20leaflet_web.pdf

Thames Valley Police

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reptcr/reptcr-vic.htm>

Ministry of Justice

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/420565/victims-of-crime-leaflet.pdf

Concerns and complaints

We aim to provide you with a high quality service at all times. However, if you have any concerns, complaints or comments about your experience of our service then please tell a member of the team or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on freephone 0800 328 7971.

Notes

Please contact us if you would like the information in another language or different format.

Arabic يُرجى الاتصال بنا إذا كنتم ترغبون في الحصول على المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بتسيق مختلف.

আপনি এই তথ্য অন্য ভাষায় বা আলাদা আকারে **Bengali** পেতে চাইলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।
Urdu اگر آپ یہ معلومات دیگر زبان یا مختلف فارمیٹ میں چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

Chinese 若要以其他語言或格式提供這些資訊，請與我們聯繫

Polish Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, skontaktuj się z nami.

Portuguese Queira contactar-nos se pretender as informações noutra idioma ou num formato diferente.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Warneford Hospital
Warneford Lane
Headington
Oxford
OX3 7JX

Switchboard 01865 901 000
Email enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
Website www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

This service is part of our Adult Directorate.

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