

Response from Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board:

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board is exploring whether there are ways that local services can improve their support to gypsy and traveller families in relation to safeguarding issues.

We welcome bringing to the board's attention the following points from your report as part of the work we are doing as described above.

- The report identifies the need to improve accessibility and communication in relation to primary health care services and the need for dedicated outreach workers;
- It raises concerns about how literacy levels may affect access to services and issues re accessing mental health services;
- A concern that children may be brought to the attention of health services when they are quite ill which may result in a higher use of Accident and Emergency and out of hours provision;
- The need for gypsy and traveller communities to get the best out of the health system in a more planned way;
- The gypsy and travellers who participated in the study did not feel that they were treated differently by health staff because of their ethnic background.