



# **WARRINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**April 2011 - March 2012**

# CONTENTS

	<u>Page No</u>
<b>Introduction</b>	2
<b>Priorities for the Coming Year</b>	3
1. Summary	5
2. Key Priorities for the Year 2011-2012	8
3. Governance and Accountability Arrangements	11
<b>The Work of the Subgroups</b>	
4. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	19
5. Children in Care Sub Group	21
6. Policy and Practice Sub Group	24
7. Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group	26
8. Training and Development Sub Group	30
<b>Single Agency Contributions</b>	
Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust - Warrington Division	35
Cheshire Police	39
Cheshire Probation	41
Court and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)	43
Golden Gates Housing Trust	45
Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service (YOS)	46
NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group	48
NSPCC	51
The Children's Society	53
Warrington Drug and Alcohol Team	54
Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	56
Warrington Borough Council Children and Young People's Services	58
Warrington Borough Council Environment and Regeneration Directorate – Development and Public Protection: Housing <i>Plus</i>	63
Warrington Borough Council Neighbourhood and Community Services	65



## Introduction



Edwina Harrison  
Independent Chair  
Warrington Safeguarding Children Board  
Contact: [wscb@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:wscb@warrington.gov.uk)

I am pleased to present this Annual Report on the work of the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) from April 2011-March 2012.

At a time of change and financial pressures, it is most important that Warrington Safeguarding Children Board continues to convey a clear message that there is no reduction of the focus on vulnerable children.

The report is in two sections. The first describes the multi-agency aspect of the work of WSCB; the second section outlines the contributions made by the agencies which make up the Board. Since I became Chair in September 2009 there have been a number of changes in membership, but the level of activity and focus has continued unabated, and this can be seen as one of the signs of a 'mature' Board.

The sub groups which are described in Section 1 undertake a great deal of the work which is outlined in the Business Plan and the groups have been very successful in delivering the outcomes which were identified. As Independent Chair, I am particularly impressed with the way that the WSCB has prioritised its work on child sexual exploitation and that awareness sessions have been attended by staff from all agencies.

WSCB held a joint Practitioners' Conference with Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board in December 2011. The sessions were well attended and with the help of colleagues from the Social Care Institute for Excellence they focused on 'Think Family' approaches to strengthen links between adults' and children and young people's services across all partners. It was an opportunity for WSCB and Safeguarding Adults Board members to meet with frontline staff from across Warrington, and to hear of their experience of working in a multi-agency environment.

I hope that you will find this report interesting and that you will agree that it has been another busy and successful year for the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board.

*Edwina E Harrison*



## Priorities for the Coming Year



Kath O'Dwyer  
Executive Director (Children and Young People's Services)  
Warrington Borough Council  
Contact: [kodwyer@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:kodwyer@warrington.gov.uk)

In the next year the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board will continue to develop and thrive in another challenging phase in its development.

Building on the firm foundations of a clear structure, strong governance, and comprehensive policy and procedural guidance for all staff across the agencies, Warrington Safeguarding Children Board will focus its energies in 2012/2013 on agreed key areas to ensure the safeguarding of our most vulnerable children and young people. These include embedding multi-agency work to reduce the numbers of children reported missing from home, care or school and respond effectively when children do go missing. We will improve the skills and knowledge in all partner agencies on the prevention and early identification of child sexual exploitation.

I am also keen that we ensure that the need to safeguard children and young people remains high on the agenda of all partner agencies in a time of huge change and significant budgetary pressures.

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board will continue to serve the children of the town and promote the best possible outcomes for our most vulnerable children. This will be done through effective scrutiny of practice, and more specific analysis of trend data and need in the different communities of Warrington. This will be informed through our increased engagement with children, young people, parents, carers and frontline staff across services.

I look forward to working with the range of agencies, professionals, children, young people and their families as the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board continues to strive to make a real and positive difference to the lives of the children of this Borough.





Professor Steven Broomhead  
Interim Chief Executive  
Warrington Borough Council

I have read with interest the Annual Report for 2011-2012 on the work of the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board.

This report clearly reflects the significant work completed by the partnership and the increased collaboration in key areas related to safeguarding children. The current climate is a challenging one for the public sector and so it is reassuring to see the ongoing commitment of individual agencies to delivering the very best for children and young people and their families in Warrington.

It is encouraging to see that so many practitioners from across the wide network of children's service providers continue to contribute to the work of the Board and its sub-groups.

I am sure that in 2012 to 2013 the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board can continue to build on the clear strengths and commitment to protect the most vulnerable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Broomhead'.



## 1. Summary

### Key Areas of Progress and Achievement 2011-2012

- 1.1 In the past year Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) has overseen some key areas of improvement in multi-agency practice in Warrington to support the most vulnerable children and young people across the Borough. This is due to the commitment of all partners and their frontline staff to safeguard children and young people from harm and promote their wellbeing despite continuing financial pressures in all sectors.
- 1.2 In November 2011, Ofsted graded Children and Young People's Services in Warrington Borough Council as performing well. The assessment letter said:  
  
*'This is good improvement on performance since 2010. The large majority of services, settings and institutions inspected by Ofsted are good or better and provision overall helps children and young people to learn and stay safe.'*
- 1.3 Nationally the Department of Education published 'The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report – A Child-Centred System' in May 2011, followed by the government's response in December 2011. Warrington Safeguarding Children Board has begun to consider the implications of these and the soon to be published revised statutory guidance on safeguarding children as a result of these important developments.
- 1.4 As at 31 March 2012 there were 170 children and young people subject to child protection plans in Warrington from 84 families. This was an increase by twelve on the previous year end figure and is in line with national trends.
- 1.5 There were also eleven children and young people subject to temporary child protection plans in Warrington. These children are mainly living in families who have recently moved to Warrington having been subject to a child protection plan in their previous area.
- 1.6 A third of the children are subject to a child protection plan because of the significant risk of physical abuse and another third because of the high risk of neglect.
- 1.7 The average length of time a child was subject to a child protection plan in 2011-2012 in Warrington was nine months. The majority (approximately 80%) of families were then supported by a Family Support Plan while the outcome for other children was to be placed in care.



- 1.8 The involvement of most agencies in child protection case conferences and reviews is good, particularly from health services. Over the year, attendance by Cheshire Police has improved. Some general practitioners have provided written reports for conferences, varying from 3% to 11% in different three month periods, but no GP has attended a conference, which reflects the national picture.
- 1.9 Warrington continues to use a 'family support model' to offer support to families as early as possible after difficulties are identified by professionals. When working to this model, professionals should complete a common assessment framework (CAF) and in the year a total of 157 CAF assessments were registered, which exceeded the local target. The majority of these assessments were completed due to difficulties identified within the family unit and due to children and young people challenging the boundaries set by parents/carers or schools. Just under half of all CAFs were also completed due to the emotional and mental health of children and/or their parents/carers. A large number of CAFs (just over sixty) also identified physical health and development difficulties in children, which relates largely to the number of CAFs completed by the Inclusion Service which supports disabled children and their families.
- 1.10 Over the year there were a total of 166 initial family support plans, meaning that 166 new children and their families were supported through the model. Some of these children would have a CAF assessment (as above) whereas others may have had a social work assessment and moved into family support for help at a non-statutory level. In addition, 478 other family support meetings to review progress were held through the year. In total, at the end of March 2012, 385 individual children were being supported by professionals as part of interventions through the 'family support model'.
- 1.11 Referrals have also increased to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for managing allegations against adults who work with children. Over the year 118 queries were made, which resulted in 71 full referrals and investigations. Of these, 10 cases (14%) were referred to the Independent Safeguarding Board for consideration on whether the person should be barred from future work with children and young people.
- 1.12 Training on managing allegations against adults working with children, as well as highlighting the need to promote safer care practices and a sound whistle-blowing culture within organisations was offered through the WSCB two-day 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' course, which was held four times during the year, and the 'Managing Allegations' course, which was held twice in the year. In addition, the 'Safer Recruitment' course is held twice a year.



The number of staff attending courses for the year 2011-2012 is as follows:

- Two-day Working Together to Safeguard Children Course: 180
- Managing Allegations: 35
- Safer Recruitment: 41

1.13 In addition, the LADO has provided specific training for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, schools catering staff and some individual schools at their request.

1.14 The WSCB Executive Group continues to maintain close scrutiny of progress, applying resource and energy to maintaining momentum in the delivery of a strong strategic framework to support inter-agency working. At a Development Day in July 2011 it was agreed to give the WSCB Executive Group delegated authority to make decisions on key items which would speed up decision making between Board meetings and make the multi-agency strategic development of safeguarding services more effective in Warrington.

1.15 The activity of the WSCB and its sub groups has been supported by a core team of staff which as a result of additional financial contribution from the Local Authority has begun to support the Children and Young People's Partnership as well as the WSCB. Recruitment to the core team has been a priority during the year.



## 2. Key Priorities for the Year 2011-2012

2.1 At a Development Day on 1 July 2011 the WSCB took the opportunity to review its Strategic Plan for 2010-2013 and Business Plan for 2011-2012. It was clear to partners that much progress had been made on the strategic priorities and there was consensus that the focus of the WSCB until April 2012 needed to be on some specific measurable outcome focused priorities that would impact on the outcomes and experience of children, young people and their families living in Warrington.

2.2 Warrington Safeguarding Children Board agreed that its vision should be:

*'The WSCB will work in partnership to ensure children in Warrington are safe from harm. We will explore our options for doing things differently, and keep a clear focus on scrutiny and challenge of all partners in delivering the best outcomes for the most vulnerable children in the Borough.'*

2.3 The agreed key priorities of the WSCB Business Plan in 2011-2012 were:

- keeping children safe from harm;
- effective and efficient systems to enable forward planning;
- scrutiny and challenge;
- partnerships and participation.

2.4 The agreed Strategic Business Plan for WSCB has ensured that a number of priorities have driven improvement, which have included:

- The launch of a new WSCB website ([www.warringtonlscb.org](http://www.warringtonlscb.org)) in March 2011 with designated pages for professionals and volunteers, parents and carers, and children and young people. It is targeted to be more user friendly and a valuable resource in increasing awareness and knowledge to support keeping children safe in Warrington.
- Implementing the pan-Cheshire protocol on missing children from care and home which has ensured that all missing children are recorded effectively in Warrington.
- Identifying and sharing information on the number of children in care living in Warrington who are placed by another local authority. This has had a positive impact in improving multi-agency cooperation in working with these children, particularly if they are reported as 'missing'.



- Because of the risks associated between children and young people who go missing and child sexual exploitation, WSCB has led on an awareness-raising campaign across agencies in relation to child sexual exploitation.
- In order to protect children in a digital age, WSCB has produced an e-safety policy and practice guidance for all agencies working in Warrington.
- Working more closely with Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board to promote the use of support to the whole family through joint training. This was particularly highlighted through the Practitioners' Conference, which was held in December 2011 and was a joint event with Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board and attracted nearly 200 frontline workers from across all agencies in Warrington.
- Ensuring that Warrington children in care living outside the Borough are in placements which are rated 'good' or 'excellent' by Ofsted.
- Identified best practice and lessons to be learned from multi-agency case audits. Two in-depth audits have been undertaken this year focusing on:
  - a young person with complex needs going through transition to adulthood, and
  - a young person in custody.
- Identified areas of good practice were:
  - positive partnership working across agencies including the voluntary sector;
  - frontline workers identifying concerns which required more intensive support to children and their families.
- In addition one case was considered by the Serious Case Review Criteria Panel in the year. As a result it was subject to an in-depth audit early in 2012-2013.
- The WSCB has been keen to help increase knowledge about private fostering regulations and encourage the registration of these arrangements. The WSCB provided training on four occasions to all agencies called 'Somebody Else's Child'. These courses were attended by 45 professionals. The WSCB has also supported the development of the Private Fostering Champions Group in Warrington.

2.5 The role of the WSCB is to scrutinise the work of all partners through the use of a detailed annual scrutiny process in addition to the already well established Section 11 audit.



- 2.6 Member agencies are now required to explain through a programme of presentations to the WSCB their contribution to safeguarding children and young people. This has assisted the WSCB in understanding the unique contribution that the different agencies make in keeping children safe in Warrington.
- 2.7 In order to achieve its vision, the WSCB reviewed the structure and function of all its sub groups.
- 2.8 It agreed to:
- strengthen and function of its Executive Group and to delegate decision making to this Group for certain issues;
  - amend the agenda for the main Board to allow members the opportunity to discuss and debate items presented in more detail;
  - develop the WSCB's reflective informed position on safeguarding issues in Warrington.
- 2.9 WSCB member agencies have given a commitment to attend bi-annual WSCB development days to reflect on progress and challenge any potential blocks to effective delivery of good safeguarding outcomes.
- 2.10 During the course of the year, with the publication of 'The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report – A Child-Centred System' and the government's response, it was agreed to add: 'The Implementation of Recommendations from the Munro Review of Child Protection' to the WSCB Business Plan priorities in 2012-2013.
- 2.11 Other priorities for the next financial year include improving the access and outcomes of 'early help' services. It is planned that the re-launch of the use of the 'family support model' and the increased use of common assessments will support this.



### 3. Governance and Accountability Arrangements

#### The Role of the Board

- 3.1 The WSCB is a statutory body established to comply with the requirements of the Children Act 2004. The statutory guidance for its work is provided through 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2010).
- 3.2 The Board provides a central coordinating function throughout Warrington for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. Its core objectives are to:
- coordinate what is done by each agency to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the area, and
  - ensure the effectiveness of that work.
- 3.3 The WSCB is the decision making body for multi-agency safeguarding issues within Warrington. The work of the WSCB has a key role within the wider context of all children's services in the town and aims to improve the wellbeing of all children, helping them to reach their potential.
- 3.4 The work of the Board falls into three broad categories, all of which aim to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

#### *For All Children*

To identify and prevent maltreatment, impairment to health or development, and to ensure children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care. For example:

- increase the understanding that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility';
- develop mechanisms to identify abuse and neglect wherever they occur;
- promote safer recruitment practice;
- monitor the effectiveness of organisations in respect of their duties under Section 11 of the Children Act;
- ensure children know who they can contact if they have concerns about their own or others' safety or welfare;
- ensure adults know who they can contact if they have concerns about a child.



### ***For Particular Groups of Children***

Proactive work to support children more vulnerable than the general population. For example:

- developing thresholds for work with children defined as 'in need' but where there is no current risk of significant harm;
- targeting services to support potentially vulnerable children, such as those living away from home, children who run away, who are disabled or who are in custody.

### ***For Children Suffering or At Risk of Harm***

Responsive work to protect children. For example:

- children abused or neglected, including those suffering in the context of domestic violence or substance abuse by their carer(s);
- children abused outside the family by adults known to them;
- children abused or neglected by professionals away from their home;
- children abused by strangers, other young people or through child sexual exploitation, including prostitution;
- young perpetrators of abuse.

## **The Function of the Board**

3.5 The WSCB has a wide ranging remit in support of safeguarding children and young people. Its function is to:

- develop multi-agency policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- raise awareness of the need to safeguard children and protect their welfare;
- monitor the effectiveness of what is done by the Local Authority and partners to safeguard children and promote their welfare, advising them of how to improve if necessary;
- organise and ensure delivery of a programme of inter-agency training, coordinated by the WSCB Training Coordinator using the Training Pool, or commissioning appropriate trainers;
- advise the Children and Young People's Partnership in the planning and commissioning of services for children;
- undertake reviews of cases, including when necessary serious case reviews, advising on lessons which can be learned;
- establish appropriate processes to review child deaths.



- 3.6 The WSCB is not accountable for day-to-day operational work. This remains the duty of individual agencies. All Board partners retain their existing lines of accountability, including responding to external inspections.
- 3.7 The WSCB has a role in holding agencies to account for their performance and the outcomes achieved by their operational work in relation to children and young people.

### **Members of the WSCB**

- 3.8 The membership of the Board complies with the statutory guidance and includes representatives from the Local Authority, health services and the police, together with other agencies whose work supports the safeguarding of children. Figure 1 is a full list of the current membership.
- 3.9 Members must be named individuals, designated by their organisation and of appropriate seniority to participate fully in the business of the WSCB. They must be able to support the WSCB to carry out its functions and in doing this have the authority to commit their organisation to policies and practice and to be held accountable for its compliance.
- 3.10 The Board is committed to developing stronger public engagement in local child safety issues, and to this end has expanded its membership to include two lay members.
- 3.11 The Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services is fully engaged with the work of the WSCB, attending Board meetings as a 'participant observer' as is recommended in statutory guidance.
- 3.12 The Independent Chair of the Board and the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services meet formally with the Chief Executive of the Council to present the WSCB Annual Report.



Sector's Rep on WSCB Board	Representative (post)	WSCB Member
Independent and Overseeing members [4]	Independent Chair	Edwina Harrison
	Lead member for Children and Young People's Services	Cllr Colin Froggatt
	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services	Kath O'Dwyer
	Lay Member	Samantha Dunne
Local Authority [4]	Assistant Director, Children and Young People's Services – Targeted Services	Fiona Waddington
	Assistant Director, Children and Young People's Services – Universal Services	Pinaki Ghoshal
	Executive Director, WBC Neighbourhood and Community Services	Joe Blott
	Head of Housing Services, WBC Environment and Regeneration Directorate	Dave Cowley
Health [6]	Director of Health Improvement and Public Health NHS Warrington PCT	Rita Robertson
	Assistant Director Integrated Commissioning , Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group / Warrington Borough Council	Simon Kenton
	Divisional Director - Warrington Division Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust	Carole Hugall
	Head of Children's Nursing and Public Healthcare Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust	Jean Sampson
	Assistant Director of Operations CAMHS 5 Boroughs' Partnership	Linda Kellie
	Director of Nursing and Service Development Warrington and Halton Hospital Foundation Trust	David Melia
Police [3]	Superintendent Cheshire Police - Northern Division Basic Command Unit	Sarah Boycott
	Detective Chief Inspector Cheshire Police - Strategic Public Protection Unit	Giles Orton
	Detective Chief Inspector Cheshire Police - Northern Division Basic Command Unit	Andrew Smith
Justice Services [2]	Assistant Chief Probation Officer Cheshire Probation Service	John Davidson
	Head of Service Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Team	Gareth Jones
CAFCASS [1]	Service Manager Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)	Sandie Hayes
Drug & Alcohol [1]	Service Manager Warrington Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT)	Cathy Fitzgerald



Sector's Rep on WSCB Board	Representative (post)	WSCB Member
Voluntary Sector [2]	Children's Service Manager NSPCC	Alex Modder
	A named representative Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	John Chandler
Schools and Colleges [2]	Representative (WASCL) Warrington Association of School and College Leaders	Paul Hafren
	Head Teacher Representative (WAPH) Warrington Association of Primary Heads	Ann Jones
Private Sector [1]	Golden Gates Housing	James Bacon
Advisors (non voting attendees) [7]	LSCB and Partnership Manager	Maggie Maudsley
	Service Manager - Quality Assurance and Safeguarding CYPS Targeted Services	Ann Towey
	Solicitor WBC Legal Services Team	Caroline Owen
	Designated Doctor NHS Warrington	Ify Omenaka
	Designated Nurse NHS Warrington	Moira McGrath
	Strategic Manager -Children in Need CYPS Targeted Services	Paula Thomson- Jones
	Consultant Paediatrician Warrington and Halton Hospitals Trust (WHHT)	Nick Wild

**Fig 1: WSCB membership list as at 31 March 2012**



## Budget

3.13 A summary of the contributions from each agency is given in Fig. 2 below.

2011-2012 (£)	Income (Agencies Apportionment)	2012-2013 (£)
123,563.80	Local Authority (including YOT, schools and Connexions) (45.72%)	123,563.80
25,000.00	Police (11.88%)	25,000.00
37,872.00	PCT (18%)	37,872.00
26,719.00	Acute NHS Trust – WHHFT (12.7%)	26,719.00
4,839.20	Mental Health NHS Trust – 5 Boroughs Partnership (2.3%)	4,839.20
6,312.00	Community Health NHS Trust – Bridgewater (3%)	6,312.00
550.00	CAFCASS (0.2%)	550.00
3,366.40	Probation (1.6%)	3,366.40
<b>228,222.40</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>228,222.40</b>

Fig 2 : Agency contributions to WSCB 2011-2013

## Relationship to the Children and Young People’s Partnership

3.14 The Children and Young People’s Partnership is a key body to the commissioning of and support to the delivery of services to all children in Warrington. The current financial climate makes it imperative to focus upon the more vulnerable children in Warrington and the revised Children and Young People’s Plan makes that clear.

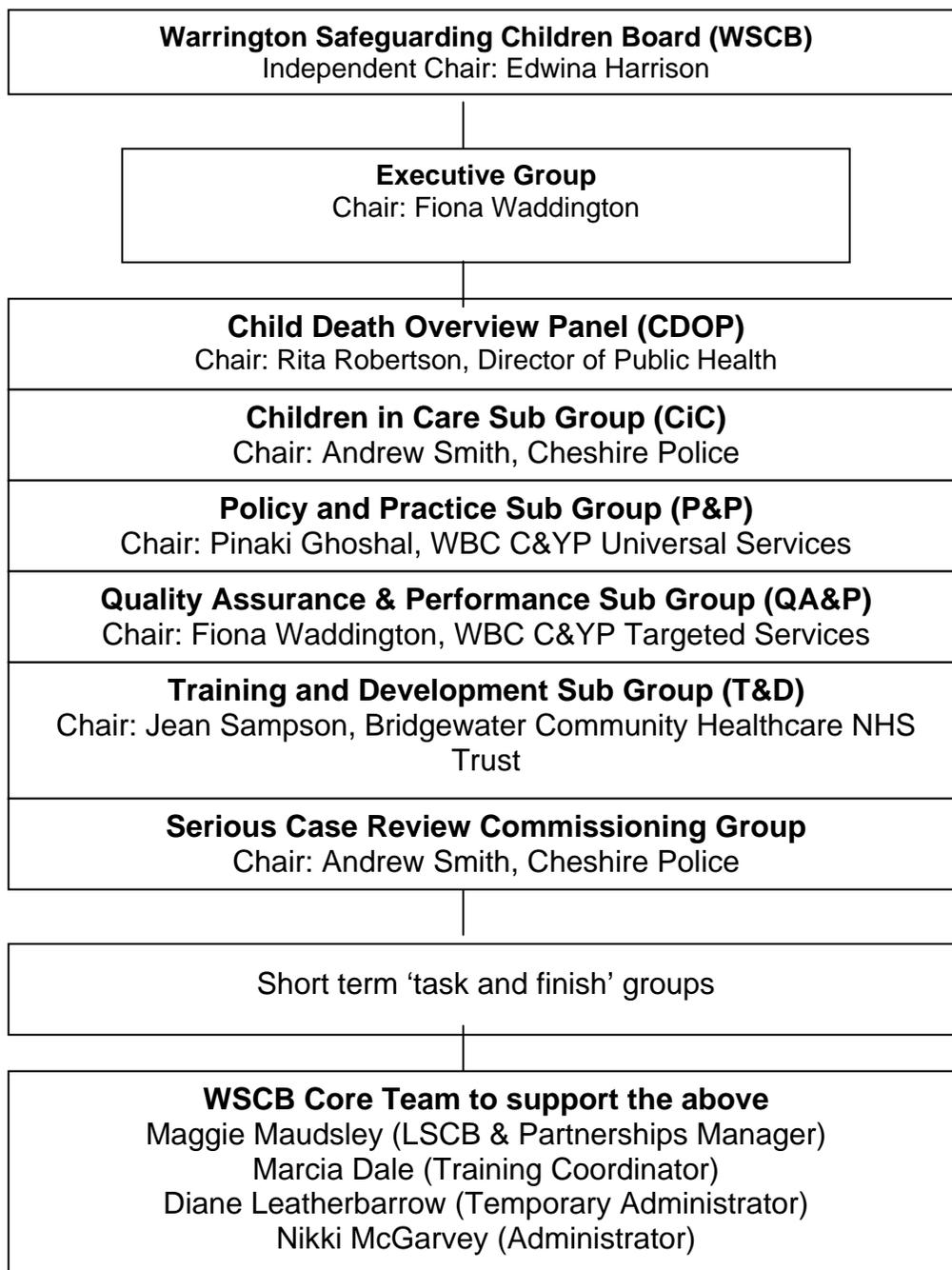
3.15 Safeguarding children and young people and children in care are two of the priorities within Warrington’s Children and Young People’s Plan. The Children and Young People’s Partnership has a mutual scrutiny and challenge function with the WSCB to ensure children in Warrington are safe from harm.



## Organisation of the WSCB and its Sub Groups

- 3.16 The WSCB is supported by an executive group and five standing sub groups, which meet regularly. The main Board has an independent chair recruited specifically for the role.
- 3.17 Terms of reference have been agreed for each sub group. In addition, each sub group is responsible for contributing to key elements of the WSCB Business Plan and is required to report quarterly on its progress. Fig. 3 below shows the structure in place as at March 2012.
- 3.18 The Serious Case Review Commissioning Group has not met since April 2011 after which it was agreed that the group will only meet when a panel is required to be convened in order to establish if the criteria for a serious case review are met.
- 3.19 Sub groups may also establish additional task and finish groups to take forward specific pieces of work, such as the Missing Children and Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group which reports to the Policy and Practice Sub Group.





**Fig 3 : WSCB structure as at 31 March 2012**



# THE WORK OF THE SUB GROUPS

## 4. CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL (CDOP)



Chaired by: Rita Robertson  
Director of Public Health  
Warrington Primary Care Trust

- 4.1 Since April 2008 there has been a statutory requirement for every Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to have a Child Death Overview Panel through this process. Warrington Safeguarding Children Board collects and analyses information relating to all child deaths and ensures a coordinated inter-agency response to unexpected child deaths.
- 4.2 Warrington CDOP is responsible for reviewing information on all child deaths and is accountable to the chair of the WSCB. The learning from the Child Death Reviews is used to inform strategic planning on how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Warrington.
- 4.3 All information on individual child deaths is made anonymous to protect the identity of individual families.

### Key Areas of Progress and Achievement 2011-2012

- 4.4 The death of any child is a tragedy. In Warrington there were twenty deaths of children and young people aged less than eighteen years old within the year. None of these deaths was felt to be due to factors that could have been changed in advance.
- 4.5 Almost half the deaths were of very young babies but there were three deaths of young people aged over fifteen years.
- 4.6 The identified emerging theme from the year was the risks of parents sleeping with their young children.
- 4.7 We have improved the systems used to obtain information for CDOP discussions including the notes from the meetings held very soon after the unexpected death of a child and post mortem reports.



## **Current Activities and Ongoing Work**

- 4.8 As a result of identifying an 'emerging theme', we are exploring the benefits of developing a 'safe sleeping' campaign in Warrington within the next year.
- 4.9 The Panel are also keeping informed of other work being done to improve road safety awareness in the Borough.
- 4.10 Nationally the Royal College of Paediatricians is looking into factors contributing to child deaths due to asthma and epilepsy. We are awaiting their report as that should make recommendations which could increase the life expectancy of children with those conditions.
- 4.11 Work to develop a pan-Cheshire Child Death Overview Panel is continuing and it is planned for this to be in place within the next twelve months.

## **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

- 4.12 Through the development of a pan-Cheshire CDOP we will be able to base learning on a wider population area and so share and develop our knowledge of possible changes that can be made to reduce child death across Cheshire.

## **Impact and Outcomes**

- 4.13 The cases considered are treated with confidentiality, dignity and respect. We aim to identify ways which can prevent other families suffering the loss of a child, such as publicising the advice about the dangers of parents and children sleeping together. In this way the Panel contributes to improving the outcomes for children and young people in Warrington.



## 5. CHILDREN IN CARE SUB GROUP



Chaired by: Andrew Smith  
Detective Chief Inspector  
Cheshire Police – Northern Area

5.1: The purpose of the Children in Care Sub Group is:

- to ensure that all Warrington children in care and care leavers are safe, secure and happy, and that they are able to make a success of their lives, and
- to ensure that children in care placed in Warrington by other local authorities are safe and access available education and health services.

### Key Areas of Progress and Achievement 2011- 2012

- 5.2 During the past year the Children in Care Sub Group began reporting directly to the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB). It still also reports to Warrington's Children and Young People's Partnership on the priorities and outcomes outlined in Warrington's Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014, such as making sure that the views of children in care and care leavers are considered in developing services for them.
- 5.3 The group developed a substantial action plan of work to improve the quality of the lives of Warrington's children in care which reflected the priorities in Warrington's Children and Young People's Plan and the national healthy care standards.
- 5.4 The 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Warrington Children in Care Council, 'Have Your Say', says that the key areas of improvement in their experience have been:
- every child going into care has a passport;
  - an agreed list of suitable and unsuitable sanctions;
  - new minimum rates of pocket money.



5.5 Other achievements noted by the WSCB Sub Group have been:

- launching a new adoption service jointly with Wigan and St Helens local authorities called 'WWiSH Adoption Service';
- the election of a child in care on to Warrington's Youth Council – IMPACT;
- making sure that children in care and those who look after them have information about services and activities available locally;
- making sure that children in care can have support which is independent from their families or the local authority when they need it;
- improving the support children in care have with their education;
- over 95% of children in care have taken an active part in making plans for their care;
- making sure each child in care has an individual healthcare plan and they and their carers are able to have advice when they need it on health issues.

5.6 We are also now making sure that information on children in care placed in Warrington by other local authorities is recorded clearly and consistently and shared appropriately between partners. We know that there were 221 children in care from other local authorities living in Warrington in March 2012.

5.7 These children may live in foster homes, children's homes or residential schools. We know that there are fifteen registered children's homes in Warrington provided independently from Warrington Borough Council.

5.8 In meetings the independent children's homes and WSCB partners have started to work together on concerns, such as what happens when children go missing.

### **Current Activities and Ongoing Work**

5.9 The Children in Care Sub Group has gone on to revise its action plan to build on the progress of the previous year.

5.10 It has agreed to focus each of its meetings upon one of the six national healthy care standards so that detailed scrutiny and analysis can be done on areas of improvement as well as celebrating success.

### **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

5.11 We will continue to work to make sure that children in care placed by other local authorities are safe in Warrington.

5.12 We will continue to work with the independent providers to improve the experience of children and young people placed with them.



5.13 Overall, the aspiration of the Group is to ensure a positive experience and good outcomes for all Warrington children in care to which all agencies make an important contribution.

### **Impact and Outcomes**

5.14 The Sub Group meetings have provided the opportunity for partners to discuss the issues which can arise for any agency which is supporting children in care and care leavers.

5.15 This has led to improvements being made in the quality of care provided so that Warrington's children in care have been able to report improvements in their experience over the past year.

5.16 The outcomes of the Sub Group are evidenced by the improving outcomes for individual Warrington children in care and care leavers.



## 6. POLICY AND PRACTICE SUB GROUP



Chaired by: Pinaki Ghoshal  
Assistant Director  
Children and Young People's Services  
(Universal Services)  
Warrington Borough Council

- 6.1 The objective of the Policy and Practice Sub Group is to develop multi-agency policy and procedure for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- 6.2 Its key tasks include cooperating with colleagues across Cheshire, regionally and nationally, to make sure that the agreed policies support improved practice in Warrington.

### Key Areas of Progress and Achievement 2011-2012

- 6.3 During the year, the Policy and Practice Sub Group has approved three new or amended policies. These were:
  - Guidance for Agencies safeguarding policies;
  - Pan-Cheshire Joint Protocol for children and young people who run away or go missing from home or care;
  - Amendments to the Pan-Cheshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children procedures.
- 6.4 Following the launch of the revised inter-agency pan-Cheshire policy and procedural guidance last year, this year the group has ensured that this is widely disseminated and that any suggested changes are properly considered by representatives from the four Cheshire local safeguarding children board areas.
- 6.5 The new guidance material is published via a website that has now been revised and includes a section which is designed for use by children and young people.
- 6.6 Single agency policies have been considered and guidance for agencies on their safeguarding arrangements is shared with partners where appropriate.



- 6.7 In addition, the Sub Group has reviewed and approved the following:
- establishment of a Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing Children Group;
  - content of a new WSCB website;
  - schools Positive Handling guidance;
  - process for recording Section 47 strategy meetings.
- 6.8 Clearer arrangements for recording the action points from strategy meetings have been developed and circulated to key agencies in order to ensure that all present have a common understanding of what actions have been agreed.
- 6.9 Following the Department of Education's publication of 'Tackling Child Exploitation – Action Plan' in November 2011, Warrington Safeguarding Children Board submitted a response to the government's 'call for evidence' in February 2012.
- 6.10 Concerns about children who are living in private fostering arrangements has led to an initiative led by the Council to ensure that robust arrangements are in place, to include private fostering champions in all agencies. The Policy and Practice Sub Group receives regular updates on the number of children in such arrangements and any issues that are highlighted.
- 6.11 The Sub Group has considered concerns about safe working practices for staff employed by local organisations on a temporary basis. As a result, the Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group will now be considering how this can be monitored.
- 6.12 The Sub Group established two task and finish groups in the past year: the Missing Children and Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group and the Safeguarding Children Operational Group. Both groups report regularly to the Sub Group meetings.

### **Current Activities and Ongoing Work**

- 6.13 The Missing Children and Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group links to a pan-Cheshire strategic group which shares good practice and works towards ensuring a consistent approach across the four local safeguarding children board areas. Information about specific cases has been collated in order to better understand the risks to children locally and agencies have received training on the issues.
- 6.14 The multi-agency Safeguarding Children Operational Group meets on a quarterly basis. This group seeks to reinforce our safeguarding practice by drawing on the knowledge and expertise of frontline operational staff.



6.15 The group considered the report of the joint Youth Offending Team/Criminal Justice Inspection *'Who's Looking out for Children'* which considered the role of appropriate adults. Further information has been provided to the group in order to assure that there are appropriate arrangements in Warrington. An analysis of case histories is currently taking place.

### **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

6.16 The priority of the Policy and Practice Sub Group is to embed good quality inter-agency working practices across all agencies working with children and young people in Warrington. As we look ahead, our activities will alter but our focus will remain unchanged in supporting strong inter-agency working to safeguard children.

6.17 Our future priorities include:

- improving guidance for frontline staff, particularly in response to their practical experience;
- amending inter-agency policies in response to changes to national safeguarding policies;
- developing inter-agency guidance to support practitioners working with some key vulnerable groups of children and young people, particularly those at risk through domestic abuse, child trafficking or being missing from home, school or care;
- challenging agencies about the quality and effectiveness of their internal safeguarding children procedures.

### **Impact and Outcomes**

6.18 The Policy and Practice Sub Group works to provide the policy and procedures within which services can work collectively to safeguard children and promote their welfare.



## 7. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PERFORMANCE SUB GROUP



Chaired by: Fiona Waddington  
Assistant Director  
Children and Young People's Targeted  
Services  
Warrington Borough Council

- 7.1 The objective of the Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group is to ensure the effectiveness of each agency's work to safeguard children and promote their welfare.
- 7.2 The Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group scrutinises the self-assessments and action plans that agencies undertake to ensure they can safeguard children as required by Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. It also takes the lead in undertaking reviews of the practice of all agencies in selected situations so that lessons for improvement can be learned and best practice highlighted.

### Key Areas of Progress and Achievement 2011-2012

- 7.3 The Quality Assurance Sub Group merged with the Monitoring Performance and Evaluation Sub Group to become the Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group in December 2011. The key areas of progress highlighted below include the work undertaken by the new group and the work of the two sub groups prior to the merger.
- 7.4 The Group worked on the revised WSCB Performance Framework to be taken forward in 2012-2013.
- 7.5 The Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group continues to take the lead on behalf of the WSCB for the process of routine audits of current cases. The aims of this activity are:
- to highlight learning for inter-agency working, and
  - to support single agency practice review and improvement.
- 7.6 The Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group identified the following themes to be explored through this audit process:



- young people with complex needs going through transition;
  - multi-agency working and access to services in respect of a child of black minority ethnicity;
  - young people in custody.
- 7.7 In the past year we have undertaken two very detailed multi-agency audits of cases which focused on two of the above themes.
- 7.8 In each case a defined 'audit period' is identified. Every agency that was involved with family/household members during that period are asked to complete a chronology of their contact with the family and identify any actions for their agency arising from the audit.
- 7.9 This information is collated and discussed by a meeting of representatives from each of the agencies involved which concludes points of good practice and learning which can be acted upon and shared through the WSCB website and single and multi-agency training.
- 7.10 The common themes of good practice included:
- positive partnership working across agencies including the voluntary sector;
  - frontline workers identifying concerns which required more intensive support to children and their families.
- 7.11 Some of the identified lessons to be learned included:
- the need to have a clear understanding shared by families and agencies about a young person's transition into adulthood;
  - the need to include all appropriate partners in planning support and distribute agreed minutes of meetings in a timely way;
  - the additional difficulties in ensuring consistent support for young people when they are moving between local authority areas, for example attending school outside Warrington;
  - some specific areas of training to develop skills were required to increase staff confidence in identifying the potential needs of the child and their whole family.
- 7.12 The Group has developed a process for seeking the views of parents/carers and children as part of the audit process. They are invited to give feedback via face to face interview with a professional who is independent of their case. Their views are included to the findings of the multi-agency file audit.



## **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

- 7.13 To further embed the process for incorporating the views of children and their parent/carers into the multi-agency file audit process.
- 7.14 To undertake a Section 11 audit in relation to commissioned services.
- 7.15 To ensure the 'voice' of children and young people on keeping themselves safe.
- 7.16 Undertake four multi-agency case audits focusing on identified themes.
- 7.17 Quarterly reporting of the Performance Management Framework.



## 8. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB GROUP



Chaired by: Jean Sampson  
Head of Children's Nursing and Public Healthcare  
Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust

- 8.1 The objective of the Training and Development Sub Group is to organise the inter-agency training programme and promote the work of the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board.
- 8.2 The Training and Development Sub Group has established a multi-agency safeguarding children training programme which is well regarded by partners across Warrington.
- 8.3 In addition, the Group has responsibility for ensuring the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board website ([www.warringtonlscb.org](http://www.warringtonlscb.org)) is up to date and a useful resource for professionals, families and young people.
- 8.4 It is also required to coordinate promotional activities and campaigns with a view to raising the profile of Warrington Safeguarding Children Board and raising awareness of how everyone can contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

### Key Areas of Progress and Achievement 2011-2012

- 8.5 During the year, the rolling programme of basic awareness, foundation level and post-foundation level courses have continued: 37 courses were planned, 29 courses were run and 557 staff attended.
- 8.6 A new course to raise awareness about private fostering arrangements was developed and delivered on four occasions. All WSCB training and multi-agency training offered by individual agencies is advertised in the Professionals section of the WSCB website.
- 8.7 The Training Pool, which focuses specifically on course delivery on behalf of the Training and Development Sub Group, ensures that the content of all WSCB training is based on current research and lessons from national and local reviews.



- 8.8 The Board Development Day held on 1 July 2011 was well attended by all partners. The theme of the session was to assess how operational developments and policy changes impacted on the context of safeguarding practice, reviewed the WSCB structure and processes, and agreed strategic development priorities for the next three years.
- 8.9 The Practitioners' Event held in December 2011 was attended by frontline staff from adult and children's services. The theme of the day was 'Think Family'. There was positive feedback and comments have contributed to an action plan which includes another Practitioners' Conference in 2012-2013 and the engagement of a member of the Adult Safeguarding Board to attend the Sub Group's meetings on three occasions per year to identify areas where joint training can take place.
- 8.10 There has been a positive response from the voluntary sector in attendance at WSCB training which is most welcome in view of the important role it plays in the provision of services to vulnerable children and families.
- 8.11 In total sixty-six delegates from the voluntary sector have attended the foundation course, 'Safeguarding Children – A Shared Responsibility', which was delivered on six occasions. In addition, another eight delegates have attended refresher foundation training.
- 8.12 From April to September in this period 'Safeguarding Children – A Shared Responsibility' was open to more agencies including private nurseries and 22 nursery practitioners attended the courses offered. After September, agencies were encouraged and supported to provide their own single agency training and the child care teams commissioned training for nurseries so that the courses are now focused upon small voluntary agencies, the faith sector and small private agencies.
- 8.13 Another nineteen delegates from the sector have attended the four sessions of the two-day 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' training and a further fifteen have attended a range of post-foundation courses.
- 8.14 The Training and Development Sub Group has monitored the delivery and progress of the AWARE sessions to promote awareness of issues of child sexual exploitation so that it is informed about the need and focus of future training for staff in this area.
- 8.15 To ensure training requirements are raised, each WSCB Sub Group is required to identify any training issues within their quarterly reports to the Executive Group.



## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- 8.16 The current year's training programme is underway and the Sub Group is reviewing the Training Strategy to ensure its relevance. The revised work programme will also be reviewed in conjunction with the new Business Plan and priorities from all the sub groups.
- 8.17 A review of all WSCB training offered has been undertaken and some courses reintroduced including 'Supporting Children in an Internet World' and 'Learning from Serious Case Reviews'.
- 8.18 New courses have been developed and are being offered in 2012-2013, including 'The Child's Journey', 'Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence' and a pan-Cheshire course on child sexual exploitation.
- 8.19 All of the newly offered courses are proving to be very popular.
- 8.20 Agencies are being encouraged to meet their obligations, as highlighted in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2010), to provide single agency safeguarding children training and are offered support from the Training Coordinator and Training Pool to achieve this.
- 8.21 A self-assessment tool has been reviewed, to be sent to all agencies, and returned to provide the WSCB with assurance that all staff working with children have, as minimum, basic awareness training.
- 8.22 A further Practitioners' Conference is being planned for October 2012 and a multi-agency group, comprising adult and children's services, is involved in the development of the day.

## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- 8.23 Effective training supports practitioners and their managers to recognise when a child may need protection and to know what to do in response to child welfare concerns.
- 8.24 The Training and Development Sub Group prioritises the delivery of a proactive training programme which both anticipates the needs of frontline staff to address emerging safeguarding issues, such as child sexual exploitation, and responds to the identified needs of frontline staff. The value of a well established multi-agency training pool is particularly effective in this respect.
- 8.25 The Training and Development Sub Group also has responsibility for the WSCB website and the production of a quarterly newsletter. A specific working group is to be established to lead in these areas.



## Impact and Outcomes

- 8.26 Well trained staff have increased confidence in their own abilities and are better able to call on the advice and support of colleagues in the discharge of their duties in safeguarding children. As a result, children are better safeguarded and enjoy improved outcomes.
- 8.27 The Sub Group is working with managers and supervisors to capture evidence of improved practice, and practitioner confidence, as a result of attending the WSCB inter-agency training. This is in order to demonstrate the impact of training on frontline practice.





# SINGLE AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS



## **Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust – Warrington Division**

Spencer House 81 Dewhurst Road, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7PG

[www.bridgewater-warrington.nhs.uk](http://www.bridgewater-warrington.nhs.uk)

Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust came into being on 1 April 2011 and Warrington is one Division of five which includes Warrington, Ashton Leigh and Wigan, Halton and St Helens, Trafford and Dental Division. Warrington Division provides a range of health services for both adults and children resident in Warrington and those registered with a Warrington GP. The teams provide services within a number of locations such as patient's homes, clinics, schools and children's centres.

Safeguarding is everyone's business and basic training and awareness is provided to all staff in the organisation. At the end of March 2012, 95% of staff had received safeguarding awareness training.

There is a dedicated safeguarding team including the Named Nurse and Doctor for Safeguarding Children, and a specialist nurse for children in care who provide training, advice, support and quality assurance for the staff and the organisation.

### **Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-12**

- Staff were supported by the Safeguarding Team in attending 124 initial case conferences.
- Support, guidance and quality assurance of conference reports took place for the 124 initial case conferences and for 254 review case conferences.
- Feedback is given to staff authoring the reports to ensure that care plans are robust. Further training can be commissioned around emerging themes, for example this year's focus on the assessment of parenting ability taking into account the voice of the child.
- The team has delivered 60 training sessions which have encompassed basic awareness, (Level 1 training is accessed through e-learning), Level 2 (93% compliance) and Level 3 update training (99% compliance). The team is also integral to multi-agency training delivered as part of the WSCB Training Pool. This work is included in 60 training sessions. The training activity provides assurance to the Directorate Management Team that Warrington Division staff are trained to the expected standard and fulfils our statutory obligations, contributing to the multi-agency approach to safeguarding children.



- Case supervision for 1153 individual children has been facilitated with community staff ensuring risk assessments are performed, care plans reviewed and staff supported in decision making. This ensures safe practice and partnership working to further safeguarding of children and young people.
- In the past year, staff have attended ten Hospital Safeguarding Liaison Group meetings, at which a total of 168 cases have been discussed and reviewed enabling multi-agency decision planning to 'at risk' mothers and unborn babies. This has resulted in early intervention to secure support to mothers and, in turn, has helped safeguarded their children.
- Twenty-two Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings have been attended. A total of 194 cases, where children are resident in the home, were discussed at MARAC, and a summary of actions undertaken by agencies have been provided to the health staff. This ensures that health staff are aware of plans in place when they meet families for the first time.
- A quarterly 'Dashboard' is produced which assures the organisation of compliance with standards and activity. The organisation is compliant with CQC standards which are monitored quarterly.
- A pilot commenced in September 2011, with support from the school health team, which offered all children who became subject to a child protection plan a health assessment. This pilot is still underway but to date of the 106 children of school age affected, all have been offered an assessment. Whilst figures to identify the final uptake of this offer are still to be finalised, a variety of health issues have been identified and necessitated referral on to services alongside support provided by the school health service.
- Over the past two years the Warrington children in care population reduced from 265 to 236 in March 2012 which represents approximately 0.5% of the child population in the Borough. Health support is available to all placements through the completion of annual individual health assessments for the children and young people and advice/support to carers and professionals from the specialist nurse and community staff.
- The Specialist Nurse for Children in Care is based with the social work teams for two days a week which has improved communication between services and has been acknowledged as good practice in the latest OFSTED and CQC reports. A health development meeting once a month is also held to enable health and social care to discuss any health concerns and ongoing issues.
- The immunisation status of children in care locally has been targeted and is 90.2% which is higher than the national average for children in care.



- Partnership working with GPs and dentists has achieved an increase in uptake of registrations promoting access to preventative health services. This has improved access for children in care in Warrington, hence improving their health outcomes.
- In cooperation with Warrington Borough Council's Children and Young People's Directorate an up to date database of children in care placed in Warrington by other local authorities has been created. Regular sharing of this information is essential to ensure that a regional NHS agreement for funding health services to these children can be effective and enable the responsible health commissioners and community health services to fully undertake their responsibilities.
- Training is provided on a rolling programme by the Specialist Nurse and Designated Doctor to Local Authority Children and Young People's Services staff and foster carers to support the national minimum standards of foster care.
- Access to Care First 6, the Local Authority's Children and Young People's Services 'live' documents, has enabled the speedy transfer of current information which is essential to ensure assessment of need and compliance with timescales. The Warrington Division has migrated onto a new child health computer system called TPP System One which is shared with 21 out of 27 GP practices. This allows us to share information about new births, vaccinations and immunisations and developmental milestones. As we implement the full clinical system from February 2013, it is anticipated that we will be able to improve patient outcomes through using a shared clinical record to promote rapid and appropriate information sharing to the benefit of the patient. This will also facilitate partnership working through our improved reporting functionality.

## **Current Activities and Ongoing Work**

- A new child health system is in place which will allow ease of access to information.
- Roll out of the full clinical system.
- Evaluation of school health pilot to be completed.
- Review commitments to WSCB sub groups to ensure the right representation.
- Development of a database, hopefully within System One, which reflects accurately children in care, particularly those placed in Warrington by other local authorities.
- Refine Dashboards to enable sharing of data with partners.
- Supporting the integration agenda with other partners.



## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- Qualitative record audit to be reinstated to incorporate current legislation and guidance.
- Continue development of Dashboard.
- Full roll out of TPP System One to promote information sharing.
- Increase preventative working through 'early support' requirements from Munro report.
- Promotion of case supervision for school age children in care.
- Further development of a patient experience audit tool for children within the safeguarding and child in care process.



# Cheshire Police

Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters, Clemonds Hey Oakmere Road  
Winsford WA7 2UA

[www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk)



Our aim is to make the people of Cheshire safe and feel safe.

Cheshire Constabulary was founded in 1857 and is now responsible for policing nearly a million people. The force covers an area of great diversity, with large rural expanses, areas of extensive heavy industry and more than 200 miles of motorway roads. Warrington is the most populous town of Cheshire and is the busiest in terms of demand. There are approximately 2,081 regular police officers, 220 police community support officers and 1,464 civilian police staff.

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-12

- The force has clear policies and procedures relating to safeguarding and is committed to developing a systems thinking or problem solving approach in order to keep our most vulnerable individuals safe.
- The most senior representative for safeguarding is Superintendent Sarah Boycott. Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) Andy Smith has strategic responsibility for public protection across the division and the day-to-day operational activity in relation to safeguarding children is in the hands of Detective Inspector Keith McCausland. Superintendent Boycott sits on the main Board, while DCI Smith sits on the Executive Group, oversees the Serious Case Review Panel and chairs the Children in Care Sub Group. Each area has a dedicated Public Protection Unit (PPU), supported by a referral unit and resourced by specialist officers.
- The Strategic PPU is located at HQ with responsibility for developing policy and procedures, identifying relevant issues and developing training as appropriate.
- Officers who come into contact with children and recognise any child protection or child welfare concerns are required to submit a report (Form 40a). This must be submitted with 24 hours and/or before the end of their shift. The report is processed by the referral unit, where it is subject to intelligence research, risk assessment and then referred to other agencies as required.
- Cheshire Police has robust recruitment procedures that ensure all staff are thoroughly vetted when employed.
- Safeguarding training is covered on the Initial Police Learning Development Programme and the Initial Crime Investigators Development Programme.



## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- Cheshire Police is represented on all areas of WSCB, including all sub groups. This ensures that all aspects of the WSCB performance and monitoring work plan are supported as required.
- We will continue to supply sufficient resources to cope with the demand that effective safeguarding requires.

## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- To improve the safety and well being of the children of Warrington through effective partnership working.
- Cheshire Police is committed to improving the safety of children in Warrington by supporting and developing the work of the WSCB and its sub groups.
- To develop a systems thinking approach to safeguarding in order to reduce the prevalence of abuse and neglect of Warrington's children.



# Cheshire Probation

Beech House, Park West, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4RJ

[www.cheshireprobation.org.uk](http://www.cheshireprobation.org.uk)



Cheshire Probation Trust is committed to the principles set out in the government's inter-agency guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2010). The area understands its contribution to promoting the welfare of children by fulfilling its safeguarding responsibilities, in practice, to be in the following:

- The management of adult offenders in ways that will reduce the risk of harm they may present to children through skilful assessment, the delivery of well targeted and quality interventions and risk management planning.
- The delivery of services to adult offenders, who may be parents or carers, that addresses the factors that influenced their reasons to offend, for example, poor thinking skills, poor moral reasoning, drug/alcohol dependence (relating to the two domains in the assessment framework of parenting capacity and family and environmental factors).
- The recognition of factors which pose a risk to children's safety and welfare, and the implementation of agency procedures to protect children from harm (through appropriate information sharing and collaborative multi agency risk management planning, for example, multi-Agency public protection arrangements, contribution to child protection procedures and through domestic abuse forums).
- The secondment of staff to work in Youth Offending Teams.
- The provision of a victim contact service to child victims of serious sexual or violent offences.
- The provision of a service to the women victims of male perpetrators of domestic abuse participating in accredited domestic violence programmes. In practice, this will mean having regard to the needs of any dependent children of the family.

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-2012

- An internal review of safeguarding practice was undertaken in September 2011.
- The Trust's safeguarding policy and practice procedures were reviewed and updated in April 2011.



## **Current Activities and Ongoing Work**

- All relevant children 'at risk' cases are formally reviewed on a monthly basis.

## **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

- All operational staff to have undertaken child protection training.



# Court and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)

Quattro Tower, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NL  
[www.cafcass.co.uk](http://www.cafcass.co.uk)



The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) is the largest children and families service in the UK. We safeguard and promote the interests of children involved in family court proceedings, including when local authority social services have become involved and when parents are separating or divorcing and have not reached agreement about arrangements for their children.

Cheshire, Merseyside and Lancashire CAFCASS (known as A9), comprises teams across the area with hubs in Runcorn and Blackburn. The area covers 12 local authorities and is overseen by one head of service. There are seven service managers managing over one hundred family court advisors and other support staff.

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-12

- Ofsted inspected the service provided to children and families in March 2011. They felt that outstanding progress has been made and improvement sustained in the core area of tackling delay.
- Backlog is now eradicated in the service area. Highly effective steps have been taken to tackle the significant number of cases awaiting allocation.
- Improvements include a restructure of service delivery and the introduction of proportionate working across the whole service area.
- The improvements achieved ensure that service delivery is efficient and effective and the safeguarding needs of children and young people are assessed at the earliest opportunity.
- There is a national team of specialist safeguarding service managers who ensure that CAFCASS is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities.

## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- The Family Justice System has been reviewed. The aim is to improve the system so that it is quicker, simpler, more cost effective and fairer whilst continuing to protect children and vulnerable adults from risk of harm. To meet challenges ahead the priority area for the future is embedding CAFCASS' Operating Framework, working with the judiciary and local authorities in tackling delay in public law proceedings and meeting the rising demands for the service.



- Focus our practice and intervention through partnership working in order to reduce delays in care proceedings. (Cheshire, Merseyside and Lancashire have the highest number of care proceedings cases nationally over 50 weeks.)
- Successful launch of the electronic case file system.
- Respond to complaints and learning lessons from complaints.
- The quality of supervision, with a clear focus on throughput and productivity and service responsiveness.

## **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

- Create a service that is responsive to changes in priorities as defined by the Family Justice Review and the government, whilst ensuring that appropriate levels of support are available to all staff.
- This year has seen the highest number of care applications reaching over 10,000, with the same resources within CAFCASS our challenge is to ensure that all children receive a service.
- Delivering a timely service whilst fulfilling our statutory functions necessitates a whole range of coordinated planning and actions including the introduction of proportionate working models, renewed focus on throughput and productivity, staff engagement and development.



# Golden Gates Housing Trust

Bank House, 88 Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1RH

[www.gght.org.uk](http://www.gght.org.uk)



Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) is a registered provider of social housing. GGHT manage approximately 8,600 properties which is about 65% of the social rented housing stock in Warrington.

Golden Gates Housing Trust has a board of twelve non-executive directors including five tenants, four independent members and three councillors. We are a company limited by guarantee, registered with the Charities Commission and the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

## Review of Safeguarding Children Activity 2011-2012

- The focus of Golden Gates Housing Trust has been on raising awareness of safeguarding issues amongst staff.
- Although GGHT do not work directly with children, we have focussed on ensuring key staff are trained in safeguarding children processes and what to look out for during our interactions with tenants.

## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- We are committed to continue our contribution to effective safeguarding children services as set out above.

## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- In 2012/13 we intend to roll out wider more basic training to our workforce who carry out repairs to tenants homes.
- This training will focus on what signs to look out for and who our operatives should to refer issues to within in GGHT.



# Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service (YOS)

Unit 10, Turnstone Business Park, Mulberry Avenue, Widnes WA8 0WN  
<http://www3.halton.gov.uk/ignl/pages/level2/youthoffending>



Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Team seek to prevent offending in young people aged 10 -18 years of age. We work with young people referred via the Police and the Youth and Crown Courts including those young people who are sentenced or remanded into custody.

We offer a service to victims of youth crime, many of whom are also children, as well as families and carers

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-2012

- The YOT has continued to develop its policies and procedures following the positive Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Inspection in 2009. All staff receive regular safeguarding training provided by either Halton or Warrington Safeguarding Boards.
- All young people subject to a period of custody, approximately eleven (six sentenced and five remanded into custody) young people in Warrington in 2011-12 received an enhanced service to ensure both they and the community are safeguarded from harm.
- The YOT maintains a high risk register which encompasses high risk of vulnerability as well as harm. This is overseen by senior managers - head and deputy head of service - and this will continue.
- Head of Service takes an active role on both Halton and Warrington Safeguarding Boards. This will continue.
- Head of Service chaired the Monitoring Performance and Evaluation Sub Group of the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board. This group now incorporates quality assurance and the YOT Head of Service is the deputy chair and a regular attendee at the Executive Group of the Safeguarding Children Board in Warrington.
- Halton and Warrington YOT were reviewed as part of a thematic inspection by HMIP in February 2012 .The Inspectorate were considering the services to young people who are in care and placed out of area and their experiences of the youth justice system. The Inspectorate was very positive about the services given by Halton and Warrington YOT and the wider partnership in Warrington. The report will be published in the late summer 2012.



- Halton and Warrington YOT led on the review of arrangements regarding appropriate adults and detention in Police custody as a response to the HMIP report *'Who's Looking out for the Children'* published in August 2011.
- Halton and Warrington YOT provide management input into quality assurance multi-agency audit processes in both Warrington and Halton Safeguarding Children Board arrangements.

## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- There is an active review of the training needs regarding safeguarding children for staff and volunteers. All volunteers will receive basic safeguarding training and/or refresher courses where appropriate. There are currently approximately 45 active volunteers in the YOT covering both local authority areas. All are CRB checked and recruited in line with safer recruitment guidelines. This will continue.
- Despite being a relatively small organisation HWYOT continues to provide input into both safeguarding boards' infrastructure, particularly regarding quality assurance and performance evaluation sub-groups. This will continue.
- There is a current formal proposal to consider an amalgamation with another local authority area to establish a larger YOT. This will ensure that the services provided to children, families and communities remain of a robustly high standard in the challenging financial outlook. Safeguarding and risk management will remain a priority of the larger organisation.

## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- Focus on appropriate accommodation to 16–18 year olds. This is particularly challenging in the current climate and the impact of the Welfare Reform Act will need to be considered by both safeguarding boards and other strategic groups such as Warrington's Children and Young People's Partnership.
- Emphasis on improving education, employment and training for vulnerable young people such as those who offend in order to assist the development of positive life chances to improve their own lives and thereby the lives of future generations.



# NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group

Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group

Millennium House, 930-932 Birchwood Boulevard, Warrington WA3 7QN  
[www.warringtonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.warringtonccg.nhs.uk)

Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is the new organisation which is taking over the responsibility for making sure that the people of Warrington have the health care services that they need. Although the CCG will not be the legal body until April 2013, the CCG took over responsibility from Warrington Primary Care Trust on 1 April 2011 and is making commissioning decisions with delegated responsibility.

There are 26 GP practices within Warrington who are all members of the CCG. We work very closely with Warrington Borough Council to make sure that health and social care are linked together for people wherever possible.

There is a Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children. These roles are integral to ensuring that robust arrangements are in place to safeguard children in Warrington.

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-2012

The CCG has reviewed its safeguarding arrangements in consideration of the Strategic Health Authority's review of the designated nurse role within the new NHS framework. The outcome of this review in Warrington has been to strengthen the designated nurse for safeguarding capacity and to introduce a resource for designated nurse for children in care. The two functions will be combined in a new fulltime post. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have locally taken into account the statutory responsibilities for safeguarding in their emerging structures.

The children's commissioners have worked on the service specifications for safeguarding and children in care services delivered by Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust, outlining clear service standards consistent with the requirements of the Children Act 1989/2004. A Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy has been developed on a North West basis and has been included as part of provider contracts. These policies and audit tools were amended in February 2012. Health providers will complete an annual self-assessment audit and provide evidence of compliance with the policy standards. Warrington CCG has regular meetings with main provider organisations in which contract standards are monitored and reviewed.

The integrated inspection of safeguarding and children in care undertaken by Ofsted and CQC in January 2011 highlighted specific actions for health services. NHS Warrington's safeguarding services were graded as 'adequate' and an improvement plan was formulated to address the CQC recommendations.



The PCT (as commissioner) developed an action plan to meet the recommendations. Considerable work has been undertaken by the CCG and provider organisations to address the action plan which is now completed and has been signed off by the local safeguarding children board and strategic health authority.

The CCG has contributed to the work of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and the work towards developing a pan-Cheshire CDOP.

The CCG has audited GP safeguarding training in relation to Level 3 requirements and a new training programme will be planned for 2012/13 in order to ensure compliance with the intercollegiate document (2010).

All healthcare professionals working with children and young people have been issued with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guideline 89: 'When to Suspect Child Maltreatment' (<http://publications.nice.org.uk/when-to-suspect-child-maltreatment-cg98>). This guidance assists health staff to make a distinction between concerns and suspicion about abuse and what action to take accordingly.

All GP practices have been issued with guidance from the NSPCC GP Tool Kit (2012), which provides a template for them to create a policy for their individual practices.

## **Current Activities and Ongoing Work**

- The Commissioning Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy was developed and ratified in April 2012. The policy includes safeguarding standards which providers are expected to comply with and has been circulated to providers with contracts.
- Safeguarding Assurance Groups have been set up with Warrington and Halton Hospitals Foundation Trust and Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust to receive assurance that these providers are compliant with safeguarding standards.
- A fulltime Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Children in Care has been appointed by the CCG and is now in post.

## **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

- For the CCG to ensure that its safeguarding arrangements for children and young people are robust and that there is effective leadership and accountability at all levels in the organisation and that it is actively represented on the relevant boards/committees/sub groups.
- To substantially increase year-on-year the submission of initial and review child protection conference reports by GPs from the current baseline percentage rate of around 7% to the required level of 100%.



- To work in collaboration with the local authority and local safeguarding children board in making arrangements to share information about children that are the subject of a protection plan with Warrington and Halton Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust.
- To work with partner agencies to ensure that the developments in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children recommended by Munro (2010-2012) are implemented with a particular emphasis on the provision of early help and support.
- To continue to monitor/audit the compliance of all providers in relation to their contractual obligations to perform in accordance with the safeguarding standards as set out by the Strategic Health Authority North West (Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy 2012) and CQC (particularly Outcome 7 – 2010).
- To record attendance at safeguarding training and monitor/ensure that CCG staff and all providers comply with their requirements to undertake safeguarding training at the appropriate level as outlined by the local safeguarding children board and the intercollegiate document (2010).



The NSPCC is the UK's leading children's charity specialising in child protection and the prevention of cruelty to children. We will stand up for children's rights, listen to them and help them when they need us and make them safe. We are determined to end cruelty to children in the UK because

- (a) child abuse remains widespread, though most is hidden, and
- (b) we believe child abuse can and must be prevented.

We work directly with children in local communities, finding better ways to protect them, preventing further abuse and helping them to recover. The NSPCC operates two national help lines to protect and support abuse from vulnerable children. Childline is the UK's confidential, 24 hour telephone and online counselling service for children and young people and the NSPCC Helpline is for anyone concerned about the safety or welfare of a child.

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-2012

In the early part of 2011, the Warrington NSPCC teams were continuing to safeguard children and young people through the delivery of services that we had provided for some years, i.e. Warrington Independent Domestic Violence Advisers Service; Domestic Abuse Support Services; the Cheshire, Warrington and Halton Young Witness Support Service; Warrington Young People's Centre Drop-In; and group work services.

The latter part of 2011 has seen major changes and the introduction of a new model of delivery in relation to NSPCC services. Three local teams have come together to form the new Warrington Service Centre which will be based at the Warrington Peace Centre from August 2012. The new model involves the team in delivering a range of new services for the next two/three years which will then be professionally evaluated to determine how effective they have been in helping children and families.

The Warrington Service Centre will be offering services for children, young people and families in Warrington, St Helens and Cheshire. Our work will concentrate on the following issues and groups of children most at risk: children under the age of one; looked after children; those who experience sexual abuse and those who experience physical abuse in high risk families (those families with violent adults, alcohol, drug abuse and mental health issues).

## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

The programmes that we will be delivering from the Warrington Service Centre include:



- FED UP - Family Environment: Drug Using Parents. This is a face-to-face intensive intervention for families in which there is parental substance misuse. It aims to reduce the negative impact of parental alcohol and drugs misuse on children and ensure they are kept safe.
- Parents Under Pressure – This is an intensive twenty-week parenting programme for methadone maintained and alcohol dependent primary carers of young children.
- Safeguarding Through Advocacy – This is a model for delivering advocacy services to children and young people in local authority care based on best practice. Our work is based on research we carried out with young people and advocacy services across the UK to determine how advocacy can best contribute to safeguarding and reducing risk to children and young people in care.
- Face-to-Face (Connecting with Children in Care) – This is a solution focused brief therapy service for children and young people in care.
- Letting the Future In – This is a therapeutic service for children and young people aged between 4 and 18 years who have been sexually abused.

## Future Priorities and Aspirations

We need to find the best and most effective ways of helping children, so the NSPCC is focusing their work on seven priority areas where we believe we can make the biggest difference. These areas are:

- neglected children
- sexually abused children
- physically abused children in high risk families
- children aged under one year
- children in care
- children with disabilities
- minority ethnic children

We are pioneering 24 new programmes of work within these priority areas, building upon knowledge we have gathered from around the world. Nationally, and in communities across the UK, we are introducing services to prevent abuse and neglect, protect the most vulnerable children and repair damaged childhoods.

We are introducing our new programmes in areas with large populations and high deprivation – to reach as many children as possible. We will run them for two or three years and share what we find to improve child protection everywhere. We will use our learning to change public attitudes and behaviours and influence government to make our society safer for children.



# The Children's Society

2/4 Catterall Avenue, Orford, Warrington WA2 0JA

[www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)



The Children's Society provides family support services from its community base in Orford, Warrington. The work focuses on Warrington's most deprived areas. The programme works mainly with children up to five years old with additional needs and those who may be particularly vulnerable, including those who are disabled or in difficult social situations. The Children's Society in Warrington is part of a leading national children's charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK.

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-2012

- A programme manager chairs the children and families voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector forum and represents the Borough's voluntary sector on the WSCB.
- All staff are trained in safeguarding children by The Children's Society and at local inter-agency training events.
- The programme works alongside partner agencies with many of the Borough's more vulnerable children. It has the infrastructure to enable it to work effectively in managing issues in relation to the protection, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- The programme focuses mainly on its family support and early years' work including group work with pre-school children, including those with communication needs, and group work/one-to-one work with their parents. The children largely fall within levels two and three of the threshold criteria.

## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- It will continue to build on the voluntary sector's strengths and skills in early help and prevention, and to deliver better outcomes through more integrated working.
- The programme aims to focus its approach in areas of high deprivation in the Borough and elsewhere in the north-west. The programme will strive to promote and support the voluntary sector's infrastructure and governance arrangements and to exercise its collective safeguarding responsibilities.



# Warrington Drug and Alcohol Action Team

Orford Day Centre, Festival Avenue, Warrington WA2 9EP

[www.warrington.gov.uk/drugs](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/drugs)



The Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) has the strategic responsibility for the drugs and alcohol agendas for Warrington Borough Council and NHS Warrington, and works with partners such as Cheshire Probation, Cheshire Police, and the two prisons within Warrington. Its work focuses on getting people into drug and alcohol treatment, and, importantly, discharge them substance misuse free.

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-2012

- The DAAT Service Manager sits on the Safeguarding Children Board and its Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group, highlighting the issues affecting the safeguarding children agenda in relation to drugs and alcohol.
- Whilst the DAAT commissions the range of services available in the Borough, responsibility for issues such as safeguarding and parental substance misuse are critical in ensuring that the children of substance misusing parents are supported. Parents too are required to reflect on the impact that their substance misuse has on their broader parental responsibility.
- The DAAT has commissioned extra support within the drug and alcohol services for service users to participate in focussing on parental responsibility and also how substance misuse affects the lives of their children and young people. Additional courses in “hidden harm” have also been commissioned for partners and services to attend

## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- The key development this year is having a bigger focus on the behaviour of parenting on substance misuse and more enhanced linkages by commissioned services with partners in sharing appropriate information around substance misuse has been developed. Similar to the previous year, additional “hidden harm” courses have been commissioned.
- Developments around domestic abuse and the broader ‘troubled families’ agenda which often have substance misuse as a causal factor, are key programmes that the DAAT will be engaging with over the forthcoming months.



## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- The DAAT will continue to have a robust data system in place which will help define the numbers of parents and children who are impacted by substance misuse. It will ensure that the “hidden harm” agenda is highly profiled within the service provision commissioned in the Borough and that all services which address elements of the substance misuse agenda have attended appropriate safeguarding training and implement their knowledge locally.
- For those people in services, a key challenge will be around parental responsibility and the DAAT will commit to ensure that services will engage service users in this critical element of work.
- The DAAT’s aspiration will be to reduce the number of children who require additional support via a safeguarding framework and that substance misusing parents have a range of skills to ensure their capacity and capability of being a parent in Warrington is addressed.



# Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Warrington Hospital, Lovely Lane, Warrington WA5 1QG  
[www.warringtonandhaltonhospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.warringtonandhaltonhospitals.nhs.uk)

Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is an acute hospital trust with hospitals over two sites. The Trust provides services predominately for children in the Warrington, Halton and St Helens geographical areas.

## Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-2012

- Training data base (ESR) is able to provide accurate information on Level 1 and Level 2 training compliance. More frequent reports can be obtained to monitor the hospitals compliance with training (at least quarterly).
- Level 3 training compliance has risen to 88 -100% in all areas where staff have to be trained to level 3.
- Level 3 training information is more readily available and linked to PDR for further monitoring (at least annually).
- Clinical holding policy for children has been agreed (incorporated into one clinical holding policy to cover both children and adults).
- Rolling problem has continued advertising children's rights.
- Referrals to Children and Young People's Services have increased by 130%. In addition the numbers of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessments and pre CAFs have increased by 250% in the last calendar year (2011).
- The numbers of child protection medical examinations have increased in the year and a clearer monitoring system has been developed to monitor activity in the future.
- A computer system within the hospital has been developed to notify activity in safeguarding children and provide an audit trail of activity (including maternity; child and domestic abuse notifications).
- An electronic alert system (Non Medical Alert) has been established to ensure staff have information on where to obtain information or who to contact for high risk cases.

## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- Safeguarding policy has been updated to ensure the Trust is compliant with Section 11 audit, changes in legislation and NHS contracts.



- A policy for staff involved in domestic abuse has been ratified.
- The named doctor for child protection for the Trust has retired and a new named doctor and deputy named doctor have been appointed with the retired named doctor retained to assist in supporting the new named doctor for a period of induction.
- The Trust has linked into a national e-learning package that has competences linked to the intercollegiate document (2010) competences.

## **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

- To improve compliance with Level 1 and Level 2 training. The Trust-wide target is 88%.
- To have in place a WSCB pre-birth policy.
- To establish a WSCB prevention of cot death campaign.
- To establish a system to identify in the trust - children that are known to be vulnerable to other agencies (that is, children who are in care or subject to a child protection plan).



# Warrington Borough Council

## Children and Young People's Services



New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NJ

[www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk)

There are three significant areas of operational activity within Children and Young People's Services:

- Universal Services, which is primarily involved with support to schools and particular groups of pupils within schools. The service provides coordination, training and support to designated teachers for safeguarding within schools. The Attendance Service and the Family Support Workers within the Inclusion Service are also involved in casework with vulnerable children and their families.
- Children's Targeted Services, which offers childcare, family support, youth and early intervention services; and also delivers social work services to vulnerable children, young people and their families; children in need; children in care and quality assures the effectiveness of safeguarding services.
- Partnerships and Resources, which includes commissioning of services to vulnerable children and children in care, and includes the Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service.

### Review of Safeguarding Children Activity 2011-12

- Targeted Services social work teams responded to 2659 referrals in 2011-2012. 449 children were subject to child protection investigations (Section 47 enquiries).
- There were 1691 core group meetings involving 393 children held during 2011-2012.
- The Conference and Review Unit has established a process for convening and chairing strategy meetings in relation to children who are at risk of child sexual exploitation.
- Work has been undertaken to improve the quality of child protection plans, including revision of all documentation used to record plans and core groups. In addition, a workshop was held for operational managers within children in need and conference and review managers to discuss how plans should be progressed and the challenge element to be provided by the Conference and Review Unit.
- Two workshops have been undertaken with managers from preventative services and the children in need social work service to review joint working and the transfer of children and families between services in order to offer a seamless process.



- Links between the two teams providing support to disabled children and their families have strengthened during this period. The managers of the Children with Disabilities Team and the Inclusion Practitioners Family Support Team meet on a monthly basis to ensure that the most appropriate team is providing support and that any safeguarding concerns are dealt with appropriately.
- Principal Managers within the Children in Need service have implemented a programme of direct observations of safeguarding practice, including managers observing core groups and home visits to children. Outcomes of these observations will be gathered and collated to inform future learning and service improvement.
- In relation to the number of children in care at any point during 2011-2012 there were 336 'period of care' episodes involving 324 children. As of 31 March 2012 there were 236 children in care.
- The redesign of Warrington's residential children's homes and the opening of four two-bedded children's homes and two two-bedded short break units for children with complex needs have been achieved successfully with positive feedback from young people in residence. The smaller homes offer much more family-based care and enhance the safeguarding of these vulnerable young people.
- All the policies and procedures in residential and fostering services have been reviewed.
- The policy in Warrington is to only place children in purchased residential placements that have been graded by Ofsted as 'good' or 'outstanding'. The Commissioning Service works with Targeted Services in conducting compliance visits to all provision and urgent action is taken when homes where Warrington children are placed are regarded as 'inadequate' or where there are any concerns about the conduct of the home or wider environmental or social issues which may impact on the child's wellbeing: for example, child sexual exploitation or going missing. The outcome of the visit is shared with the relevant service manager and a risk assessment is undertaken to determine the viability of the placement.
- A new Children in Care Residential Providers Forum was established in February 2012. The forum has a clear focus on safeguarding which includes, for example, missing from home, risk assessment and awareness-raising in respect of child sexual exploitation.
- All privately fostered children and young people have an identified social worker who assesses the suitability of each private fostering arrangement.
- The White Ribbon Campaign, via the Domestic Abuse Partnership, raised awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on families.



- 214 families purchased equipment from the children's centres' 'Safe Buy Scheme' thus reducing the potential for accidents in the home.
- The Youth Service reviewed and reissued its safeguarding policies to ensure that the Service continued to meet its safeguarding obligations following changes to the Service throughout 2011-2012.
- A one-day training safeguarding course was offered to designated staff in all Warrington schools with 96% of schools attending.
- Termly networks have taken place for designated staff for safeguarding. Agendas have included focusing on the needs of young carers and children at risk of sexual exploitation.
- The safeguarding hotline that advises schools on safeguarding has been re-launched so that there is a guaranteed same day response from the Educational Safeguarding Team. This hotline deals with an average of 23 calls per week.
- All prevention, family support and youth staff have regular training to update their knowledge and training of safeguarding. This forms part of their induction and ongoing professional development. Members of the team access WSCB training courses as appropriate and many family support workers have undertaken DASH training to assess the level of risk of domestic abuse in families.
- All inclusion practitioners and family support staff attend regular training to update their knowledge and training in relation to safeguarding.
- All social workers have been trained in relation to the new care planning regulations.
- The core training provided to foster carers has been refreshed and refocused with a clear emphasis on safeguarding and safer care.
- The Commissioning Team within Children and Young People's Services makes an important contribution to safeguarding. A standard element of the induction for staff includes a safeguarding session delivered by the Local Authority Designated Officer and staff have access to Warrington's safeguarding policy.
- One of the Commissioning Development Officer posts has been established with a particular focus on health related issues, including monitoring and assurance in relation to safeguarding health services and the health of children in care. In 2011-2012 an audit of the gaps in GPs Level 3 safeguarding training was undertaken in cooperation with NHS Warrington. Training events have been established and will continue into the next year to ensure all GPs are Level 3 trained.



## Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- A new service for young carers was launched through Wired and information shared with all schools.
- A new shared service for elective home education has been launched.
- Child protection conference chairs have started to seek direct feedback from children and families following every conference. This feedback will inform learning and service development.
- Routine case file auditing of social work files by frontline managers is ongoing and a random sample of face to face interviews are offered to the children and families whose cases are subject of the audit process. These interviews are conducted by the Quality Assurance Officer who is independent of the operational teams. The feedback received will enhance learning from the file audit process and have an impact upon service delivery.
- Routine case file audits of family support and youth workers' caseloads are ongoing, supported by the Quality Assurance Officer.
- Family support and youth workers have been supported to improve record-keeping through bespoke workshops delivered by qualified social workers (from within the Prevention, Family Support and Youth Division).
- Family support workers and their management team have developed a system of reflective supervision where workers are supported by their peers to further develop their practice.
- A random selection of CAF assessments are regularly audited in order to drive up standards of assessment and in order to influence further training programmes.
- The Service Manager for Children in Care reviews all children who are subject to a care order but placed at home with parents.
- Targeted Services social work is participating in the regional review of assessment in response to the Munro Review and the draft revision of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2010).



## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- Develop and enhance the identification and response to child sexual exploitation within the borough and maintain the established robust response to children who go missing.
- Re-launch and increase participation in CAF and the Family Support Model across all partner agencies ensuring that robust packages of 'early help' are provided.
- Develop 'whole family' assessments and care planning under the Complex Families programme which will include both children and adults services.
- Ensure that schools within the borough, including academies and the free school, continue to access safeguarding training and are aware of what to do when they have concerns that a child may be being abused.
- Work with external providers, through the Commissioning Unit, to ensure that safeguarding is a key activity in their care of vulnerable children.



## Warrington Borough Council Environment and Regeneration Directorate - Development and Public Protection: *Housingplus*

The Gateway, 85-101 Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1SR

[www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk)

Warrington Borough Council's strategic housing service is primarily concerned with ensuring that all of Warrington's residents have access to decent quality and affordable housing. This involves comprehensive assessment of the local housing situation, the co-ordination of services to meet identified needs and demands, and monitoring and enforcement activities.

*Housingplus* is Warrington's one stop shop for housing and is based at The Gateway in Warrington. It is a partnership funded by the Council and local registered providers to provide free, confidential and independent information, assistance and support with accessing a wide range of housing related services to assist those in housing need or those with housing problems.

The team provides a comprehensive service to people, including families and young people, facing homelessness, potential homelessness and those in housing need. They also provide a range of services for those seeking accommodation, trying to stay in accommodation, or advice about housing related matters and since June 2010, manage a supported housing scheme which houses families and single people. All of the Council's housing services can be accessed through *Housingplus*.

### Review of Safeguarding Activity 2011-12

- All staff have received basic safeguarding training and those who have direct contact with children and young people, mainly support staff and *Housingplus* staff have received detailed training. Training records are maintained.
- A number of new staff have been seconded into the *Housingplus* team. Staff are CRB checked to the enhanced level where required.
- There are designated staff who attend the meetings of the main Safeguarding Children Board; Policy and Practice; and Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Groups.

### Current Activities and Ongoing Work

- Staffing in the *Housingplus* team is likely to increase through further secondments and a programme of training will be ongoing.



## Future Priorities and Aspirations

- Policies will be reviewed and updated regularly, particularly with regard to the operation of the supported housing units. The views of children and young people will be sought to inform these developments.
- Additional supported housing accommodation is due to become operational which will accommodate single people from the age of 18years and older.



# Warrington Borough Council Neighbourhood and Community Services



New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NJ

[www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk)

The Neighbourhood and Community Directorate brings together many of the Council's outward facing, people services. This includes neighbourhood and public health services, both with a universal offer as well as an emphasis on tackling inequalities and improving outcomes for the most disadvantaged.

Working closely with a wide range of partners and people who use services, Adult Social Care (ASC) commissions, develops and provides services to those aged over 18 years with eligible needs; including a focus on transition arrangements of children from 14 years and older. In the context of supporting vulnerable adults with families, ASC will also often identify the needs of children, including young carers, as well as the parenting needs of parents. The vulnerable adults safeguarding service works closely with Children and Young People's services to ensure local responses and the development of services to ensure that support to the most vulnerable are aligned and where possible, integrated.

## Review of Safeguarding Children Activity 2011-12

- During 2011 -12, links between Adult Social Care and children and young people's safeguarding services has been further developed. There is reciprocal membership on both boards with representation on the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board including the Executive Director for the Neighbourhood and Community Directorate, who is the chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- In December 2011 the Adult Social Care service jointly planned and contributed to a successful multi agency practitioners' event focusing on 'Think Family' approaches. This resulted in a shared action plan. In 2011-12, Adult Social Care funded and collaborated with colleagues in children's services to produce a DVD to raise awareness of hate crime.
- The Directorate continues to promote and encourage uptake of basic awareness training and is currently developing with children's services to develop and launch a joint basic awareness programme.
- Adult Social Care regularly provides information on its involvement and intelligence in respect of children and families where there is concern and in many instances work directly alongside children and young people's services.



- The Adult Social Care's quality and audit guidance includes consideration of safeguarding children's cases to ensure where appropriate, these are included in regular audits of practice. Both safeguarding children and adult leads meet every month to discuss and develop areas of joint interest. Jointly they provide operational leadership around safe recruitment including in 2011 -12 reviewing and improving the process to support Direct Payment recipients with CRB checks.

## **Current Activities and Ongoing Work**

- The children and young people's and adults' safeguarding leads meet on a monthly basis to consider areas of overlap and opportunities for integration or increased efficiency. This has included reviewing the protocol between services to ensure adequate coverage of safeguarding adults and children and in particular a focus on preventative work with perpetrators. The revised protocol will feed into a broader workshop in June 2012.
- Work to deliver the joint basic awareness programme which covers both adults and children and young people's issues in one session is progressing – this will be introduced before the end of the year.
- Both services are already planning another joint practitioner event following up on the 'Think Family' conference from last year. The focus of this year's event will be to further develop joint approaches and improved understanding of the range of services available across all of adults' and children's services. There will be emphasis on increasing practitioner's options to involve other appropriate services when working with families who may require a range of services to support them.

## **Future Priorities and Aspirations**

- Opportunities to realise efficiencies and benefits in liaison with key strategic partners taking account of 'Think Family' approaches and the 'complex families' initiatives.
- Closer alignment of training and media programmes to maximise opportunities for raising basic awareness and recognising the distinct nature of the specialist aspects of the work.
- Shared understanding of the local position and needs of chaotic and hard to reach families, which enables more effective interventions.
- Improved communication and intelligence.
- Opportunities for sharing best practice.

