



Welcome

Welcome to Edition 7 of the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Bulletin.

In this edition we introduce you to two new lay members of the board, Russell Malley and Brian Monaghan. You can read more about Russell and Brian in the WSCB Update starting on page 2.

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WSCB Update

Two new lay members join the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board.

In April 2013, Russell Malley and Brian Monaghan joined Warrington Safeguarding Children Board as lay members and look forward to the contributions they will bring to the safeguarding of children in Warrington.

Russell Malley



Living in Appleton and married with 2 grown up children Russell has been a member of various youth organisations in the Warrington area for many years. He is an Officer of the Boys' Brigade, a board Member of the British Marching Band Activity and Junior and Youth Rugby League coaching/ amateur club management official.

Professionally for the past 14 years, Russell has been the UK Managing Director of a large European Window Fashion Manufacturer. Whilst he does not come from a "traditional social care" background, his experience in business and voluntary work brings a set of different and relevant skills which will be a real asset to the board.

Brian Monaghan

Brian is a recently retired police officer, who spent nearly 40 years in the service, the majority as a detective, with Merseyside Police and the National Crime Squad. Brian served in a wide variety of Specialist Units, including Family Crime investigation.

During his service, he had the sad experience of investigating a number of sudden deaths in infants and young persons. In what Brian describes as 'the twilight' of his career he was posted to Bosnia Herzegovina where he headed up a unit investigating War Crimes, Sexual Offences and People Trafficking. Brian volunteered for 5 years as a 'befriender' for young people through Barnardo's in Liverpool developing their social skills and independence for adult life. In the latter 6 years of his service, Brian achieved a PGCE and taught younger colleagues engaged in national accreditation.

In his social life as well as the 'lay member' role, Brian is the treasurer of 'Warrington Wire Writers' club, undertaking his lifetime ambition of publishing a book. He also belongs to the 'Cruise Lecturers Association' lecturing to Cruise passengers.



WSCB & Partnership Team News

The team has welcomed three new staff members since the last edition and is now fully staffed.

Mark Tasker - Interim Training and Development Coordinator

Mark retired from Cheshire Police in September 2013 and has joined the team as Training and Development Coordinator on an initial six month contract whilst pan Cheshire preparations for LSCB Training arrangements are agreed.

Sue Baker – Children and Young People's Partnership Business Development Officer.

Sue has joined the team in a new part time post to support the Children and Young People's Partnership and its sub groups. Sue will be leading on the development of the new three year Children and Young People's Plan to be in place from 1st April 2014 until March 2017.

Ste Miller –Interim CSE Coordinator

Employed by Catch 22, Ste will be known to colleagues in Warrington from his work with Missing Children in Warrington which he continues. Since September he has also been developing our work in raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation particularly with schools, Youth Services and the Fire Service.

Steve Harding – Quality Assurance and Performance Officer

We also welcomed Steve back at the end of October on a phased return to work after several months sick leave.

Maggie Maudsley – WSCB and Partnerships Team Manager

Having achieved the status of having a fully staffed team, Maggie will retire from her post with WSCB. Her last working day in the post is Friday 8 November 2013.

We know you will join us in thanking her for her work with WSCB and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Other staff news:

Charlie Whelan – Designated Nurse

Charlie retired from his role as the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Children in Care with Warrington Clinical Commissioning on 25 October 2013. Although Charlie will be continuing to provide some cover for the post in the next few months, we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Charlie will be replaced by Pauline Owen who comes, as an experienced Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, from Dudley in the West Midlands. Pauline will be starting in her new post on 6 January 2014.

Additions and Amendment to WSCB Procedures:

What Happens if Anyone Disagrees with the Child Protection Conference Decision?

Warrington Safeguarding Children board has published procedures on the management of disagreements about Child Protection Conference decisions. Wherever possible any disagreements will be resolved within the Child Protection Conference.

The procedure can be invoked when an individual:

- Believes that a Child Protection Conference has not been run in accordance with the Safeguarding Children Board procedures.
- Disagrees with the facts and/or category of primary concern which resulted in a child being made subject of a Child Protection Plan
- Disagrees with the decision for the child to become, or not to become, subject of a Child Protection Plan, or for the Child Protection Plan to be discontinued.

These procedures can be accessed in the [WSCB on line procedures](#)

WSCB Escalation Policy

WSCB has adopted a revised Escalation Policy [WSCB Escalation Policy](#) . This document sets out the process of what to do if there are differences between professionals working with children and families. There is an easy to use flow chart for the process to be followed.

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

There was the launch of the Pan Cheshire & Merseyside Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy on 28 June 2013. This successful event included an address from Sheila Taylor from the National Working Group on CSE. One of the most powerful speeches was from a young care leaver from Liverpool about the experience of being sexually exploited and the impact of the delay in professionals understanding her behaviour as a 'cry for help'. The protocol can be accessed at [WSCB Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

WSCB update

WSCB will be publishing its annual report for 2012-2013 shortly. The WSCB Business Plan for 2013-2014 reflects development work undertaken in April 2013, which include consideration of the implications for Safeguarding children in the revised Working Together 2013

The Board meeting of the **2 May** received a presentation from the Youth Justice Board on how they ensure the safety of children placed in secure settings.

At this meeting, Warrington & Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust also made a presentation on how it ensures that staff identify the needs of children for help and protection appropriately.

A multi agency risk assessment and review procedure, 'Assessment Care and Control Treatment (ACCT)', for children and young people detained in custody for more than one night has been adopted in Warrington.

The Board is ensuring it knows about the effectiveness of multi agency services by receiving detailed quarterly reports from the Conference & Review Unit. More information on the effectiveness of services will be provided to the full Board meetings in future.

Also included in the Board's performance information framework are indicators including:

- The number of pre birth assessments undertaken and their outcomes;
- The number of electively home educated children;
- The number of 16-18 year olds who present as homeless;
- The number of children attending hospital because of accidents;
- The numbers of children who self harm;
- The number of children held in custody overnight

and

- The number of children who are victims of crime

A report was also received from the Domestic Abuse Coordinator. The new Domestic Abuse Strategy has been adopted and can be found on the [WSCB website](#)

The WSCB meeting of **18 July** welcomed the new members of the LSCB, Lesley Freeman from the Area team for NHS England who are based in Stockton Heath and Steve Whatmore representing School Governors.

The Board discussed a report on Warrington's response to OfSTED's thematic review on safeguarding disabled children. As part of the work to integrate services for disabled children, a reporting framework is being developed which will aim to include evidence from a range of agencies, not just the local authority. The development of this into a quarterly report will be another way in which the LSCB can be reassured about the effectiveness of services to safeguard disabled children.

The Board also received a report on the range of services on offer in the Warrington area provided by the NSPCC, this included:

- Parents under Pressure: 6 week programme for substance misusers with children aged less than 2 ½ years;
- Face to Face: a solution focused programme of up to 8 sessions for Children in Care aged over 4 years or those living away from birth parents;
- Safeguarding Through Advocacy: In Warrington, this Advocacy service is targeted to children with disabilities receiving short break care and is offered jointly with National Youth Advisory Service (NYAS);
- Letting the Future In: Therapeutic intervention lasting up to 12 months for children aged between 4 to 18 years who have been sexually abused;
- FEDUP: Intensive Family Intervention offering individual work with substance misusing parents and group work for children aged between 5 – 12 years;
- DART: Domestic Abuse Recovery programme of small group work with 'safe carers' and children of up to ten sessions including work on developing individual 'safety plans'.

The WSCB meeting held on **10 October 2013** received a presentation from 'CRI - Pathways to Recovery' on how they fulfil their responsibilities to safeguard children. 'Pathways' is the service commissioned to support adults with alcohol and substance misuse difficulties.

The Board is seeking ways in which its members can become more familiar with multi agency front line practice to safeguard in Warrington. Members are being asked to consider attending, as observers, Child Protection Meetings, including conferences and core groups.

As 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance published in March 2013 extended the remit of LSCBs to evaluate the effectiveness of 'Early Help' available for children and families as well as protection and care, the meeting received the Quarter 1 report from the CAF team on the use of the Common Assessment Framework and the Family Support Model in Warrington. All members of the Board agreed to encourage their staff to use the Assessment Framework as the way to ensure children and families receive appropriate support as early as possible.

Following a recent appeal against a decision of a Child Protection Case Conference **all** partner agencies were reminded that the procedures require staff to show families copies of their Initial Case Conference reports one working day prior to the conference.

A new policy guidance on Neglect was agreed which will include lessons learned from recent Serious Case Reviews.

All Board members have been asked to read the Serious Case Reviews published by Birmingham LSCB on Keanu Williams and Coventry LSCB on Daniel Pelka. The WSCB Case Review sub group will be considering what lessons there are for Warrington from these two tragic cases.

The Board's next Development Day is on **7 November** when it will be undertaking a self assessment of its effectiveness against the grade descriptors indicated in the draft Inspection framework for LSCBs published by OfSTED.

National Updates

Running away from home, sexual exploitation.

A report from Barnardo's research [Running away from hate to what you think is love](#) makes a wide range of recommendations including how to raise awareness of running away and child sexual exploitation and ensure knowledge is successfully and appropriately shared. The research also shows that running away can take place when a child has already been sexually exploited.

Warning over child poisoning from detergent liqui-tabs

Children in Wales and Public Health Wales are warning of the dangers of liqui-tabs to children following a number of incidents of poisoning. Those most at risk from accidental poisoning are aged between 0-4 years.

The number of poisoning incidents from liqui-tabs is increasing. They can be very attractive to inquisitive children due to their bright colours, pleasant smell and tactile nature.

The Good Childhood Report 2013

The happiness of this country's children is in decline, with teenagers experiencing particularly low well-being according to research published by The Children's Society.

The report highlights a period of rising well-being (children's happiness and satisfaction with their lives) between 1994 and 2008. But this stalled - and may have begun to decline in recent years.

Younger teenagers have lower well-being than other age groups, the report finds. They are less likely to be happy about school, their appearance and the amount of choice and freedom they have. [Download the full report from the Children's Society website.](#)

Multi-Agency Working and Information Sharing Project: Early Findings

The purpose of this paper is to provide some early findings from a Home Office funded project to improve national and local understanding of the different local multi-agency models in place to support information sharing around safeguarding responses for children and vulnerable people. [Download the early findings here](#)

Child internet safety

The DfE website was [updated on 18th](#) July with further information and resources related to internet safety. It is important that those working with children and young people gain sufficient knowledge and understanding of the potential for children to be targeted for abuse on line. A recent survey by BASW and the NSPCC revealed that half of all social workers surveyed said they felt concerned about dealing with online sexual abuse or behaviour. Over two thirds felt they needed more support with child protection cases involving online abuse.

Notifications of private fostering arrangements in England: 31 March 2013

This release provides figures on notifications received by LAs of children cared for and accommodated in private fostering arrangements in England. It also reports on actions carried out by the LA in accordance with the requirements for carrying out visits (under the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005).

A privately fostered child is defined as under 16 (18 if disabled) and cared for by someone other than a parent or close relative as defined in s105 Children Act 1989.

In the North West whilst the number of new notifications has risen (2012: 250, 2013: 290), the total number of children reported as being under private fostering arrangements has gone down (2012: 170, 2013: 150). [Access the full report here.](#)

Guidance for governing bodies on behaviour and discipline

This [statutory guidance](#) explains why maintained schools must have a behaviour policy, what it must cover and the role of the governing body and head teachers in shaping their school's behaviour policy.

If you or your organisation would like to include anything in our WSCB newsletter about safeguarding children in Warrington then please let us know at WSCB@warrington.gov.uk