



Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 1st April 2015- 31st March 2017



“Every child and young person in Warrington should be able to grow up safe from maltreatment, neglect, bullying, discrimination and crime -receiving help when they need it in a timely and effective manner”

Our Vision: “To ensure that every child and young person in Warrington is safe and has the opportunity to reach their potential.”

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 1st April 2015- 31st March 2017

1. Introduction

The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is a statutory Board and a strategic partnership. The Board does not commission or deliver direct front line services, (other than multi-agency safeguarding children training), but scrutinises, challenges and evaluates all local services, making clear where improvements are needed to keep children and young people in Warrington safe. The Board provides strong, forward thinking, outcome focused, visible leadership promoting delivery of continuous improvements in the care and protection of our children and young people.

There are many dimensions to safeguarding children and the Board undertakes a wide portfolio of work to ensure local children are provided with effective services that contribute to keeping them safe. The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Annual Report 1st April 2014- 31st March 2015 provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services, including identifying areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for further action.

This analysis has identified a discreet number of defined areas which we have concluded are the most important, determined by local need and evidence from our intelligence information. The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Business Plan 1st April 2015- 31st March 2017 sets out our work programme for the next two years to address these defined areas which we have called priorities.

We are pleased, therefore, to present the **Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Business Plan 1st April 2015- 31st March 2017**.

2. Background

The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Business Plan reflects the requirements in Working Together to Safeguard Children, a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 2015. It also ensures that the statutory requirements of the Board are fulfilled effectively, by providing performance intelligence to measure and evidence that our quality assurance work this is making a difference to the safeguarding outcomes for local children.

Children and their families are a fundamental partner in visioning, design and delivery of services and in evaluating all service and partnership activity.

In order to ensure services meet the needs of local families and to ensure children and families are at the centre and are able to direct and challenge all we do, we have consulted with local children about key aspects of this plan and have also consulted with the WSCB Youth (Reference) Group and the WSCB Faith and Community (Reference) Group with respect to the Annual Report analysis which informs this Business Plan.

The Board also recognises the key role played by front line practitioners and their managers across the partnership in delivering strong and effective safeguarding children services. The Board has therefore involved the WSCB Practitioner (Reference) Group and Safeguarding Children Operational Group (managers) in the development of this work plan.

This Business Plan details how we will deliver on the priorities identifying clear outcomes for all planned activities with measures to evidence our progress, aligning the priorities in the plan to performance information that is sufficiently flexible to allow us to recognise and respond to significant shifts in local methods of intervention. This ensures that our Business Plan is transparent and clear detailing what we want to achieve and by when.

The Business Plan shows how the Board is contributing to a culture of continuous learning which is resulting in sustained changes to partners' practice that is impacting on outcomes evidencing children are safer.

The WSCB Executive Group and Scrutiny Subgroup, reporting to the Board, will monitor the effectiveness of the delivery of this Business Plan to ensure that activity is impacting on outcomes.

3. Local Context

Warrington is a borough of contrasts, covering 182 square kilometres of rural villages as well as the town of Warrington itself, which is the largest and most densely populated area.

Approximately 44,300 children and young people under the age of 18 live in Warrington. This is 22% of the total population in the area. Approximately 15% of these children are living in poverty and 6% are from minority ethnic groups. The largest minority ethnic groups are Polish, Pakistani and Indian and the proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language is 12% in primary schools and 4% in secondary schools.

There is a marked difference in prosperity and the quality of life between the inner wards and the outer suburbs and villages. 33,000 residents (of whom 25% are children and young people) live in twenty specific neighbourhoods, mostly concentrated around the town centre and housing around, which are amongst the most deprived areas in the country.

4. Our Priorities

The Board will continue to deliver all its statutory functions and core responsibilities. We will continue to develop as a Learning Board and to scrutinise and challenge the work of partners to ensure that children in Warrington receive consistently high quality services that keep them safe and impact on their well-being.

In addition we have prioritised key areas of work following the analysis of our progress and challenges in the WSCB Annual Report 1st April 2014- 31st March 2015 for particular focus going forward. These are:

WSCB Business Planning Priorities 2015 - 2017:

Protecting children from neglect

All the recent research into neglect confirms the pervasive and cumulative impact on children and young people of living in neglectful homes.

Neglect continues to be a key factor for a significant number of children and young people supported by child protection plans or in care in Warrington. The number of children and young people supported by child protection plans or in care in Warrington has also continued to rise. A number of developments supported by the Board last year has ensured stronger services and improved outcomes for these children. But there is more to do. Learning from local case reviews and our analysis in the Annual Report has informed our work plan.

Protecting children from domestic abuse

The harm to children who live with domestic abuse has been confirmed by extensive research and it is a priority for the Board. We want to ensure children in Warrington are protected from the impact of living in homes characterised by tension, outburst of violence and the ongoing stress that results from domestic abuse.

The impact of neglect specifically where Domestic Abuse is involved continues to be a key factor for a significant number of children and young people supported by child protection plans or in care in Warrington.

Work undertaken by the Board last year has ensured staff are well informed about the risks of harm to children and how to support them, but there is more to do. We have listened to practitioners and the experiences of children and the views of both have informed our work plan.

Promoting the safety and wellbeing of the most vulnerable

-including protecting children at risk of sexual exploitation, missing from home, trafficked and at risk from social media

Protecting children from sexual exploitation (CSE) and children who are missing from home or care is vital given their vulnerability. In Warrington the Board has both a subgroup and an operational group that provides a strong framework to ensure these children receive timely support to protect them. A strong suite of services support improved outcomes for these children but there is more to do. In particular the Board wants to ensure strengthened services to protect children from harm from the rise in the digital revolution and opportunities this presents for them to be exploited. We also want to do more work to protect children from trafficking.

We will continue to ensure services that support specific groups of vulnerable children including children in care, leaving care, subject to child protection plans, subject to private fostering arrangements and at risk of radicalisation or female genital mutilation from harm.

Improving the quality and consistency of safeguarding practice

The quality of front line practice is key to ensuring services really make a difference to children's lives keeping them safer.

We will strengthen the WSCB Learning and Improvement Framework which details how we will quality assure safeguarding work, to ensure that we capture intelligence from the appropriate balance of performance information to assess the quality of partners' safeguarding work. The framework will identify how performance information is sourced using a range of methods.

We will analyse intelligence from organisational issues such as workforce, learning capacity, safeguarding wisdom, supervision and support, organisational culture, use of resources and evidence based practice. We will ensure improved performance reporting from CDOP and S11 audits which will contribute to our intelligence. We will triangulate and analyse the performance intelligence to identify trends, issues and themes to enable effective scrutiny.

Crucially, then we will robustly and rigorously follow up and challenge on all actions and monitor impact on practice so that we can evidence that the Board is contributing to a culture of continuous learning which is resulting in sustained changes to partners' practice and children are safer.

6. What's next? Monitoring and Review

Progress on this business plan will be monitored by WSCB Executive Group, supported by the WSCB Scrutiny Subgroup that will triangulate and analyse performance intelligence to monitor the impact on outcomes for children.