



## **Welcome to the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter December 2012**

### **Message from the Chair**

Dear Colleague



As the new Chair of Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and welcome you to the WSCB newsletter.

I am very pleased to take up the role of Independent Chair of the WSCB and working with partners across the locality to ensure services effectively safeguard children. Although I only started in Warrington in October 2012, I have had the opportunity to meet a number staff across the partnership and particularly enjoyed meeting some social workers recently.

One of the important tasks of the WSCB is to understand how services are delivered to parents and children, what works well, as well as those areas we need to develop. One of the best ways of understanding this is to meet the staff who directly undertake this work and so I am looking forward to meeting more practitioners across all the agencies who work to support vulnerable children and their families.

Your views will inform the work of the WSCB and ensure that we can support you in your work. The WSCB Newsletter will:

- keep you up to date about the work of the WSCB;
- update you on new developments in Warrington; and
- inform you of national policies which affect vulnerable children.

If you have any comments or suggestions please let me know as we want this to be a useful addition to the information you already receive.

I look forward to working with you.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Audrey Williamson'.

Audrey Williamson  
Independent Chair of the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board

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## **Pilot Multi-Agency Inspection of Arrangements to Protect Children in Warrington**

Warrington is preparing for a pilot inspection of its multi-agency arrangements for the protection of children, which is due to take place in January 2013.

The inspection will be unannounced, led by Ofsted, but will include inspectors from the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and HMI Probation.

All agencies which support children and young people or work with families where vulnerable children live may be asked to provide evidence about how their services identify children at risk and provide 'early help' to prevent risk escalating.

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## **WSCB Multi-Agency Training**

There are a number of training dates for key multi-agency courses through to the end of March 2013. These are:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Course</b>
09/01/13	One day	Module 1 Warrington Family Support Model
15/01/13	One day	Module 2-Warrington Family Support Model Awareness
15/01/13	One day	Emotional Abuse and Neglect
23/01/13/ 24/01/13	Two days	Working Together to Safeguard Children
24/01/13	One day	Module 3 - The Role of the Lead Professional
01/02/13	Half day	'Somebody Else's Child' , Private Fostering
08/02/13	One day	Perpetrators and Protectors, Managing Risk in Child Sexual Abuse
12/02/13	One day	Module 5 Refresher Training Family Support Model
05/03/13	One day	Module 1 - Warrington Family Support Model
07/03/13	Half day	Foundation Level Update/Refresher training in Safeguarding Children
14/03/13	One day	Safer Recruitment
21/03/13	One day	Cultural Diversity and Safeguarding Children

Further information about the above courses and application form and criteria are available on the WSCB website at:

[http://www.warringtonlscb.org/professionals\\_inter\\_agency\\_training.html](http://www.warringtonlscb.org/professionals_inter_agency_training.html)

We will shortly be publishing the WSCB Multi-Agency Training Programme for 2013-2014, so keep checking our website for details.

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## **Pan-Cheshire LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures**

We hope that all staff across our partners are finding the web-enabled edition of the Pan-Cheshire LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures helpful. Stay up to date. We can alert you when the procedure manual is updated. You can sign up to receive alerts on any updates, go to:

[http://warringtonscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contact\\_us.html](http://warringtonscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contact_us.html)

Warrington Borough Council Children and Young People's Services have the link on the desktops of their computers.



WSCB Procedures.URL

Why not put the link to the Procedures on to your desktop?

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## **Practitioners Conference: 'Whole Family Working'**

WSCB, in partnership with Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB), held a Conference in October 2012 for front-line practitioners across all agencies to explore whole family working, the Complex Families agenda and consideration of the variety of services in Warrington to meet the needs of children and families. The feedback on the event was very positive with comments including:

“Great to have Adults and Children’s Services together”

“Good way of communicating multi-agency working”

“I found the conference helpful to supporting work with troubled families”

Delegates reported that they would like more opportunities to share knowledge and understanding of how we can work together to meet the needs of children and families. The WSCB along with the WSAB will be holding further events through 2013/2014.

## **Children and Young People's Event**

At the beginning of March 2013 the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is holding a special event for children and young people living in Warrington. In preparation for the event, Catch 22 and Young Advisors are working with groups of young people in the Borough to find out what they think is important when seeking to keep young people safe from harm at home, while in school and when out and about in the local area. They are also discussing with young people what would be the best ways to encourage them to seek help and support if they have any concerns.

This special event is open to anyone of secondary school age up to their eighteenth birthday and will be a day when young people are actively involved. If you are interested in coming along or know of anyone else who may be then watch out for updates in the Warrington Guardian and on our website at [www.warringtonlscb.org](http://www.warringtonlscb.org) .

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## **National Developments and Policy Updates**

### **Caught in a Trap** (November 2012)

This report from ChildLine contains many direct quotations from children who have been able to tell only ChildLine of their sexual abuse, and nobody else. The report calls for immediate action from local communities, protective services, parents, and young people themselves.

[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/news-and-views/our-news/nspcc-news/12-11-12-grooming-report/grooming-report\\_wda92794.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/news-and-views/our-news/nspcc-news/12-11-12-grooming-report/grooming-report_wda92794.html).

### **The Failure of Child Protection and the Need for a Fresh Start** (16/11/2012)

Speech by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/speeches/a00217075/gove-speech-on-child-protection->

### **CSE Inquiry Interim Report: "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world"** (21/11/2012)

This report, coming at the end of the first year of this inquiry into the sexual exploitation of children (CSE) in gangs and groups, has uncovered for the first time the extent to which children in England are being sexually exploited:

[http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content\\_636](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_636)

The findings, summarised in the Executive Summary of the report reproduced below, make stark reading.

'Imagine that within three medium sized secondary schools every pupil was being subjected to sexual violence on a routine basis over months, and sometimes years,

by multiple perpetrators; or that within 20 medium sized secondary schools every child was displaying behaviours which indicated they were at significant risk of being sexually exploited, and only a small number of staff acted on these warning signs.

'The equivalent of this is true. Based on evidence submitted to the CSEGG Inquiry, at least 16,500 children were identified as being at risk of child sexual exploitation during one year and 2,409 children were confirmed as victims of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups during the 14-month period from August 2010 to October 2011. Evidence to the Inquiry indicates that in any given year the actual number of children being abused is far greater than the 2,409 that have been confirmed. Interviews with children and young people, evidence collected during site visits and gathered at hearing sessions all indicated that many children who were sexually exploited either remained unseen by professionals or, even when known, were not recorded in the call for evidence submissions received by the OCC. 16,500 children from across England were identified as being at high risk of child sexual exploitation during the period April 2010-March 2011. This figure is based on children who displayed three or more signs of behaviour indicating they were at risk of child sexual exploitation.'

These are the main findings of the Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) by the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC). Appendix A (page 114) of the Report provides a Warning Signs and Vulnerabilities Checklist for Practitioners. **If you are worried about a young person you are working with** then visit the Community Care website to learn more about the key warning signs of Child Sexual Exploitation.

### **New Report Reveals Increase in Child Abuse in Schools (19/11/2012)**

'Safe from Harm' released by west London law firm IBB Solicitors and undertaken by legal research company Jures looks at the effectiveness of the legislation that was introduced to protect children in the wake of the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman. The report has been endorsed by Fair Play for Children which campaigns for the UN Convention right of the child to play.

<http://www.ibblaw.co.uk/news-and-opinions/104/new-report-reveals-increase-in-child-abuse-in-schools>

<http://www.ibblaw.co.uk/downloads/brochures/2012-11-19-10-26-33-ibb001-safe%20from%20harm.pdf>

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## WSCB Contacts

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Visit our website at:  
[www.warringtonlscb.org](http://www.warringtonlscb.org)

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